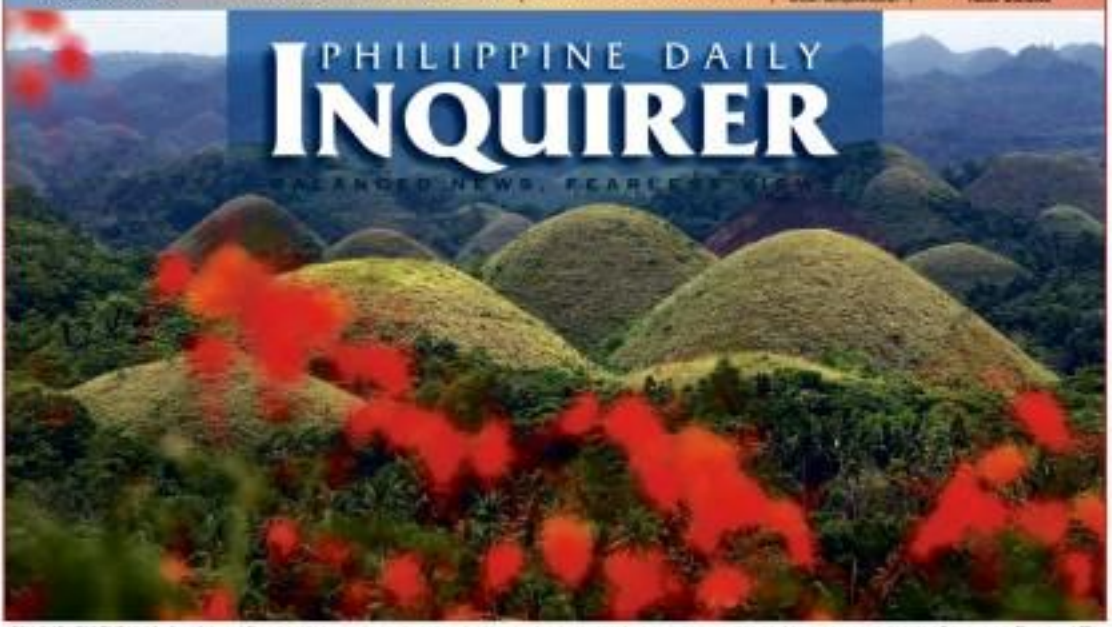
Friday, April 13, 2012 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 125 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DELIVERING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
ENLIGHTENED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



APRIL SHOWERS THE HILLS Bohol's famed Chocolate Hills are not brown these days. April showers have caused the few trees in bloom and turned the grass greener in the hills of Carmen town. There are 1,776 hills spread over an area of more than 50 square kilometers. Every hill is blanketed with grass that turns burnt brown in the summer, hence the name Chocolate Hills. JOVEN BAGARES

3rd Sino ship enters shoal

PH warship sails to Poro Point

By Tina G. Santos and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE PHILIPPINE Navy's flagship, BRP Gregorio del Pilar, withdrew from the disputed Scarborough Shoal yesterday morning even as a third Chinese civilian ship entered the area on the third day of a standoff.

"It has been pulled out for re-provisioning. I think it will go to Poro Point, but it has been replaced by a Coast Guard vessel," Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario told reporters.

Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Adm. Alexander Pama confirmed that the BRP Gregorio del Pilar was being pulled out from Panatag Shoal to replenish fuel and food provisions at Poro Point in La Union province.

"It's definitely not a retreat on the basis of the position that we took that this is ours. There's another Philippine Coast Guard vessel that will be there to continue to enforce what we started," Pama said. "That area is ours, there is absolutely no doubt about that. That is ours."

Del Rosario, who is seeking to defuse tensions over the resource-rich shoal in talks with Chinese Ambassador Ma Keqing, downplayed the arrival of yet another Chinese vessel in the area 220 kilometers west of Zambales province.

3RD SINO A10

THE QUEEN'S DEPUTY President Aquino introduces visiting Governor General Quentin Bryce of Australia at welcome rites in the Palace on Thursday. She said Australia is looking forward to the President's visit later this year. ERIK DE CASTRO

Binay stands by UNA slate for 2013

By Anselmo Roque and Armand Galang
Inquirer Central Luzon

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Vice President Jejomar Binay is taking a "wait-and-see" attitude on a possible coalition between the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA), which he leads, and the ruling Liberal Party of President Aquino.

Asked about the President's recent pronouncement that a political alliance may be possible, Binay said: "Tingnan natin (Let's see)." But Binay said he

BINAY A10

Jinggoy slams door on alliance with UNA parties / A10

'Getting hit by rocket debris like hitting lotto jackpot'

NASSIID CITY—Its balance Secretary Jesse Robredo, the chance of any Filipino getting hit by debris falling from a North Korean rocket is as small as hitting the lotto jackpot.

"The probability of getting hit by debris from a North Korean rocket is like winning the lottery," Robredo said here on Thursday.

GETTING A11

Nokor rocket still on launch pad as wary world waits / A11

NP to field 'lean and mean' slate

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NACIONALISTA Party (NP) is fielding a "lean and mean" senatorial slate in the 2013 polls.

Former Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Ace Barbers said yesterday that the NP headed by Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., would become the "third force" in the midterm elections.

"Don't discount us," said Barbers, telling the business

Inc., former Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar and Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano had decided to run for the Senate under the NP banner.

"I'm in the running," said Barbers.

NP TO FIELD A10

DOE: Mindanao to get some power relief by May 19

By Amy R. Remo

BY MAY 19, the people in Mindanao may get some relief from the long hours of rotating brownouts plaguing the island since the beginning of the year, Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras said on Wednesday night.

"The good news is that we will shut down from April 17 to May 19 the 255-megawatt (MW) Pulangi facility so that we may be able to produce 100 MW more from the plant—assuming there is rain. But so far, water levels at the dam are good," Almendras said at a dinner-briefing with business editors, reporters and columnists at the newspaper's editorial offices.

Almendras said the Department of Energy was also looking to top off the 74-MW generated by diesel-fired power plants of certain distribution utilities and industrial firms to help shore up supply on the island.

That, he said, would ease the

DOE MINDANAO A10

P-Noy opens Mindanao power summit today / A10

UNIDENTIFIED SWIMMING OBJECT Is it/are a dorsal or caudal fin? Whichever it is, Coast Guard officers who have seen it cutting through Manila Bay waters on Thursday say it's a whale shark ("butanding").

Marcos crony ordered to return $50-M loot

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SANDIGANBAYAN First Division has ordered businessman Herminio Disini, a crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, to surrender $50.6 million in commissions that he received for helping two foreign firms obtain the contract to build the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) in 1974.

The antigraft court said the commissions were "ill-gotten" and that Disini should recovery in the government the total amount, with interest, until fully paid.

"The evidence presented by

MARCOS A10

WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS

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FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2012

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2D

12	10	
15	10	
14	2	

SUERTRES

7	0	5
7	6	5
0	4	8

6D LOTTO

6 2 7 0 8 5

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN

5 8 26 29 34 35

P17,832,467.60

SUPERLOTTO 6/45

5 13 21 23 26 37

P29,427,386.40

LOTTO TIPS

Congress set 'pork' limits–Palace

By Norman Bordadora

"DON'T look at us."

It was Congress, and not Malacañang, that approved the rules tightening controls over the pork barrel funds that have lawmakers complaining about the undue hold the executive branch supposedly has over the legislature, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said on Thursday.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad Jr. said the DBM did not have anybody sent for review of the congressional instruments. The DBM, as with all government departments, is under the Office of the President.

For one thing, Abad said, the limit imposed on realignments of the pork barrel—or Priority Infrastructure Development Fund (PDAF)—was provided for under the national budget or the General Appropriations Act of 2012 that Congress passed in late 2011.

The secretary said the executive branch took the passage of the special provisions as proof of the lawmakers' dedication to transparency and accountability.

"The limits on the use of the PDAF were not decided on solely by the DBM," Abad said in a statement issued.

"This agency does not wield...and has never wielded—the authority to control the release of lawmakers' PDAF. Rather, these rules were actually approved by our very own congressmen when they reviewed the 2012 National Expenditure Program last year," he said.

Abad's remarks came in the wake of criticism from some congressmen that the rules had been tightened against those who were opposed to the Aquino administration.

He said Special Provision No. 6 of the 2012 GAA states that a "realignment under [the PDAF] may only be allowed once."

A fund realignment is the act of transferring an allocation for an approved item in a project to another item.

"Limiting the number of fund realignments would allow project implementations to proceed faster, since the realignments themselves cause delays and prevent agencies from delivering critical public services in a timely fashion," Abad said.

"When Congress approved this rule in the GAA last year, we took that as an expression of their commitment to the principle of transparency and accountability, especially in the use of public funds," he added.

He dismissed fears the Aquino administration would use the PDAF as a tool to "manipulate" opposition lawmakers.

"The Aquino administration will not make it difficult for members of the opposition to make use of their respective PDAFs," Abad said.

Earlier, SCT Teachers party list Rep. Antonio Tinio acknowledged the processing of the PDAF had become stricter under the Aquino administration, especially this year.

Partylist Rep. Toby Tiangco had said as the vice-president-elect of Chief Justice Renato Corona that congressmen who did not sign the impeachment complaint were threatened with the withholding of their PDAF.

Iloilo Rep. Jerry Treñas said the new PDAF rules were affecting both administration and opposition members of the House of Representatives.

"The DBM needs to go into more details, not only what projects are to be funded and who are the beneficiaries are, but also a specific program with a deadline," said Treñas.

But for Abad, "In the end, we aren't just concerned about the proper and effective use of funds. We also want to ensure that the benefits from our services are indeed being felt by all Filipinos in a direct, immediate and sustainable way." With reports from Ed C. Cabacungan

Comelec: PCOS cheaper, practical

By Jeremy Jasmo

COMMISSION on Elections (Sen) (Comelec) Vice Brillantes Jr. yesterday said the poll body was confident that its decision to renew and purchase precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines for next year's elections would be backed by the Supreme Court.

"The [commissioners] debated it lengthily. Why would we have a new public bidding (for a new contractor), if we have an option to purchase [the PCOS machines]? We really thought it will be beneficial to the government, the Comelec and the people because it's less expensive," Brillantes told reporters in an interview in Baguio City, where the poll body was on its bonus special session.

In his part, Commissioner Rene Sarmiento cited the brilliancy of the voters with the machines and the Comelec's limited budget in running up with the decision.

"We decided to buy the machines for practical reasons. It is much cheaper and the DOH [Department of Health] has proven effective," he said.

Brillantes maintained that the provision in the option to purchase appended to Comelec's old contract with Smartmatic International, the poll body's automation service provider in 2010, is granted valid because it was repeatedly extended.

Corona rating down to new low, says survey

CORONA

THE SET satisfaction rating of embattled Chief Justice Renato Corona has plummeted to a new low, according to a recent survey of the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

Results of the First Quarter 2012 Social Weather Survey showed that from a "poor" minus 14 net satisfaction in December, Corona's rating dropped to a still "poor" minus 38, with 22 percent of respondents saying they were satisfied with his performance and 51 percent saying otherwise.

In the same survey, Vice President Jejomar Binay has maintained his "excellent" net satisfaction rating of plus 70, while both Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. have boated their personal records, shooting a "very good" plus 56 and "excellent" plus 67 net ratings, respectively.

The SWS scoreboard on satisfaction ratings of plus 70 and above as "excellent"; plus 50 to plus 69, "very good"; plus 30 to plus 49, "good"; plus 10 to plus 29, "moderate"; plus 9 to minus 9, "neutral"; minus 10 to minus 29, "poor"; minus 30 to minus 49, "bad"; minus 50 to minus 69, "very bad"; and minus 70 and below, "miserable."

The survey, which covered 1,200 respondents nationwide, was conducted from March 10-13, when the Corona defense team was starting its presentation. The impeachment trial, which started on Jan. 16 and adjourned on March 23 for a recess break, will resume on May 7.

Since his controversial appointment as Chief Justice in May 2010, Corona's net satisfaction rating has set breakfast jamboree territory in earlier SWS surveys. Corona got his lowest rating of minus 14 in June 2010, while his highest net rating so far is zero, which he got in June and September last year.

On the other hand, Binay's net satisfaction of plus 70 (79 percent satisfied, 9 percent dissatisfied), maintained the December rating, when 77 percent of respondents said they were satisfied, while 7 percent said otherwise. Binay posted his personal record high of plus 71 in March 2011.

Enrile moves up

Meanwhile, Enrile, who also acts as the presiding officer of the impeachment court, posted his record net rating of plus 56 (68 percent satisfied, 12 percent dissatisfied), which is 28 points higher than his December rating of plus 28 (53 percent satisfied, 17 percent dissatisfied). Enrile's previous record was a "good" plus 43, which he obtained in March 2011.

Also hoisting his personal record was Belmonte, who obtained a net rating of plus 58 (59 percent satisfied, 21 percent dissatisfied), a 23-point increase from December rating of plus 8 (53 percent satisfied, 25 percent dissatisfied). His previous record was plus 17, which he achieved in March 2011.

Public satisfaction also rose for the top four state institutions, with both the Senate and the House of Representatives breaking previous records.

The net satisfaction rating of the Senate rose 14 points from plus 44 (59 percent satisfied, 15 percent dissatisfied) in December to plus 58 (71 percent satisfied, 13 percent dissatisfied) in March. This is also a record for the institution, whose previous best was plus 51 in November 2010.

Satisfaction with the House of Representatives was up by 13 points from plus 27 (46 percent satisfied, 19 percent dissatisfied) in the previous quarter to a record plus 40 (56 percent satisfied, 16 percent dissatisfied). This rating surpassed the previous high of plus 32 in November 2010.

Inquirer Research

Hot and fair in next 2 days

By TJ Burgonio

THE TEMPERATURE yesterday cooled to 35.3 degrees Celsius in Quezon City, as the weather bureau forecast a fair weather for the next two days, indicating snow from the debris of Storm Ewiniar's melee was to fall.

Forecasters of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration recorded the temperature—the hottest so far this year—at around 1 p.m. at the Science Garden in Quezon City.

It could be a preview of the generally hot weather in the archipelago from Thursday to Saturday except for some isolated rain showers.

Partly cloudy to cloudy weather would prevail over in the eastern parts of the country where the debris of the Indo-Australian plate is expected to crash, as there won't be any prolonged rainfall here, forecaster Aldczar Acosta said in an interview.

If at all, there would be scattered rain showers or thunderstorms arising from the intertropical convergence zone, and isolated rain showers or "localized thunderstorms" in parts of Luzon and Visayas, he said.

"We'll continue to experience hot but fair weather," he said.

Acosta, however, pointed out that the bleak forecast notwithstanding had already incorporated all the weather conditions where they planted the area where the debris would fall.

Climatologists had said that atmospheric conditions such as wind and rain could alter the cooler's path.

The debris was projected to crash in open sea.

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Leila meddling with Comelec vs Abalos, says lawyer

By Marlon Ramos

A COMELEC, or former Commission on Elections (Comelec) chair Benjamin Abalos (yesterday accused Justice Secretary Leila de Lima of "pressuring" the election body into excluding two former poll officials as Abalos' coaccused in the 2007 Hello Garci poll fraud case.

Lawyer Brigido Dulay said in an interview that De Lima was meddling with the Comelec's handling of the electoral sabotage case against Susan Radcliffe and Virgilio Garcillano, former election supervisors of South and North Cotabato, respectively.

The two, along with Abalos, former president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, former Maguindanao election officer Lintang Bedol and former Maguindanao governor Andal Ampatuan Sr., were charged for allegedly manipulating the 2007 poll results in some parts of Mindanao.

Dulay said no less than Comelec chair Sixto Brillantes denied De Lima's statement that the government was planning to utilize the former Comelec supervisors as state witnesses against Abalos.

Pressure by DOJ

"I feel that there is pressure being exerted by the Department of Justice (DOJ) on the Comelec to discharge Radcliffe and Garcillano as witnesses," Dulay told reporters.

He noted that Radcliffe and Garcillano's lawyer, Nesto Sattiwa, was a "good friend" of the justice secretary.

"That gives you the clue, isn't it? They can even deny that. I'm sure you know the influence of Nesto Sattiwa here in the DOJ," he added.

Brillantes denied the claim of Abalos' son, Mandalayong City Mayor Benhur Abalos, that the Comelec was set to grant a motion dropping Radcliffe and Garcillano as respondents in the case.

"It's not true. We are there's no resolution on that.... It may just be a rumor," the Comelec chief said.

"The joint prosecution panel reports to us, and there's no such resolution dropping the case against Radcliffe and Garcillano. There's no formal move [for the adoption of a resolution]. The case against them shall proceed," he added.

Sought for comment, De Lima denied she was trying to coerce the Comelec into dropping the charges against Radcliffe and Garcillano, saying the poll body "perfectly knows" the importance of their testimonies.

"We're fully committed and committed to ensure the successful prosecution of the big fish. Here, it's former Comelec chair Abalos," De Lima said in a text message to the reporters. "The preferred testimonies of these two women are key to the evaluation of that good fish the Comelec perfectly knows that."

The justice secretary said her "perceived closeness" to Sattiwa "has nothing to do" with the DOJ's position that the pair should be discharged as government witnesses.

"We, also Chairman, want a fair-valued prosecution, but we're not really close," she said.

No counsel for Abalos

Meanwhile, Dulay disclosed that he had decided to withdraw as Abalos' lawyer in the electoral sabotage case pending before Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 112 Judge Jesus Mupas.

However, he said he would continue to represent the former Comelec chair in a similar election case being heard by another Pasay court.

"I voluntarily withdrew as counsel,... to spare my client from the possible negative repercussions that may arise due to the acts Mupas may have against me," Dulay said, adding that Abalos had accepted his withdrawal from the case.

Mupas ordered Dulay arrested for contempt of court after he claimed in open court that the judge had wanted to extort P500 million from Abalos in exchange for the latter's temporary freedom.

The Court of Appeals reversed Mupas' decision and lifted the arrest warrant against the lawyer on March 22.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

CIRCULAR NO. 2012-009

TO : ALL EMPLOYERS

SUBJECT : MANDATORY SUBMISSION OF ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTION COLLECTION LISTS (e-R3)

Pursuant to Social Security Commission Resolution No. 125 s.2012, approving the implementation of the mandatory submission of contribution collection lists, the following guidelines are hereby issued:

1. Effective immediately, all employers with more than ten (10) employees shall submit their electronic contribution collection lists (e-R3) through any electronic media (e.g. flash drives, compact disks).

   Hard copy of Contribution Collection Lists (SS form R-3) shall no longer be accepted.

2. The "R3 File-Generator" program (the program which was developed to assist employers in the preparation of monthly contribution collection list) may be downloaded from the SSS website at http://www.sss.gov.ph or you may go to the nearest SSS branch to copy the e-R3 compressed file (R3FDCComp).

3. Submission of e-R3 shall be on or before the 13th day after the payment due date.

4. Employers with ten (10) employees and below may submit their contribution collection list thru e-R3 or hard copy of said list.

Please be guided accordingly.

EMILIO B. DE QUINTOS JR.
President and CEO

11 April 2012

Address: SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
E-mail Address: mailbox@sss.gov.ph Web Site: http://www.sss.gov.ph

US visa fees hiked

By Tina G. Santos

STARTING today, the US Embassy is raising fees for some nonimmigrant visas, including visas for tourists, business travelers and students.

Filipinos applying for tourist, business, crew member, citizenship and fiancé(e) visas will have to pay $160, from the old $140.

But fees will be lower for all treaty/investor visas, as well as those for E-2 Dependent visas and trade/investor visas.

According to a statement posted on the embassy's website, the reduction in immigrant visa fees has become possible because new GE law allows the Department of State to seek reimbursement from other federal agencies, such as the US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

"US embassies must collect higher fees for tourist and other types of nonimmigrant visas because US law requires the Department of State to recover the cost of processing these types of visas," the embassy said. "The new fees more accurately reflect the cost of visa processing services at embassies in a US government study completed last December."

Starting July 15, however, applicants who had paid application fees at the old rate will have to pay the difference between the old rate and the new rate.

For visa categories that have lower fees starting April 13, applicants who have already paid will get no refunds.

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Lucio Tan seeks ₱300M from gov't in damage suit

By Leila B. Salaverria

CLAIMING that state prosecutors have failed to prove that his assets are ill-gotten after more than two decades of trying, tobacco-liquor tycoon Lucio Tan has filed a ₱300 million counter-claim for damages from government.

In a memorandum filed through lawyer Estelito Mendoza, Tan asked the Sandiganbayan 5th Division to dismiss the forfeiture case against him and grant his claim for damages for the misuse of his assets.

The forfeiture case against Tan, which was filed in 1997, is in the final stages with the prosecution and the defense having finished with the presentation of evidence.

Mares wealth?

The government wants Tan's assets transferred to the state, claiming they were part of the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The Tan companies involved in the case are Fortune Tobacco Corp., Asia Brewery, Allied Banking Corp., Basilcon Farms, Brumel Industries, Grandspan Development Corp., Silangan Holdings, Dominium Realty and Construction Corp., and Shareholdings Inc.

Among the things that Tan cited in his favor was the government prosecutors' failure to present his brother, Mariano Tanenglian, as a prosecution witness.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), which filed the case against Tan, decided to drop Tanenglian as a witness after failing to come to agreement over Tanenglian's request for immunity. Tanenglian is one of Tan's co-defendants in the forfeiture case.

According to Tan, with the failure to present Tanenglian as a witness, the state's evidence was "inadequate to sustain a judgment" against him.

Tan said that from the date when the allegedly ill-gotten shares were sequestered in 1986 until the Supreme Court's nullification of the sequestration in 2007—a period that spanned 21 years—the owners were deprived of the right to enjoy the benefits of these assets.

He said he and the other defendants were entitled to damages because the affected corporations were unable to exercise their corporate powers, "to devastating effect."

Tan asked for himself ₱100 million as temperate damages and ₱200 million as exemplary damages.

Temperate damages, also called reasonable damages, are awarded when the court finds that some pecuniary loss has been suffered but whose amount cannot, from the nature of the case, be proved with certainty.

Exemplary damages, when called punitive damages, are required and awarded in a lawsuit when the other party's wilful acts were maliscious, wicked, oppressive, fraudulent, reckless, or grossly reckless. Although often requested, exemplary damages are seldom awarded.

No proof

Tan said he should be awarded exemplary damages as a deterrent against the state's supporting the "wanton and gross disregard" of his constitutional rights.

The other individual and corporate defendants should each be awarded the same amount as Tan, he said.

Tan and prosecutors failed to produce adequate proof that any of the assets that the government was seeking to recover, as well as the shares of stock in his name, were ill-gotten. He said it was not even shown that the state owned the shares of stock it sought to recover.

He said none of the documents that the prosecution questioned did not involve ill-gotten wealth or any property that originated from the government.

He noted that prosecution government witnesses' testimony to show that the shares in Allied Bank belonged to stockholders of General Bank and Trust Co. (GenBank) and that 60 percent of shares in several of the Tan corporations were owned by the Marcos cronies.

The prosecution also presented the articles of incorporation as part of several lists showing that the incorporating stockholders were Tan and the other defendants, but none of the shares of stock in the name of the incorporators had been subscribed by the republic, Tan said.

Cross-claim

Tan said the government submitted its claims via the alleged testimony of Imelda Marcos, and the Tantoco wife of the dictator's widow; Imelda Marcos, and the Tantocos, who are Cory Sunh stockholders. Marcos and the Tantocos had contended that some of the shares of stock that the government sought to recover belonged to them.

Baguio mall extension a green project—SM

By Doris C. Dantes and Kristine L. Alave

THE SM GROUP has reiterated that the ₱1.2-billion expansion and redevelopment of its Baguio mall would be environmentally sustainable and mitigated not only the grocery but also the air quality and energy usage.

In a press statement amid the uproar caused by its education of 182 trees on its property, SM City Baguio said the project would better serve its customers as the first mall in the country designed to be certified by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the internationally recognized standard for green building design and construction developed by the US Green Building Council.

SM said some of the trees—Alnus and non pine—would be replanted within the mall complex. At the same time, it said it had planted 6,000 pine saplings while another 20,000 were set to be planted within the year in designated watersheds.

It said another 30,000 trees would be planted in the next three years not only within SM but as far away as Mt. Tuntun and Mt. Pulag.

The expanded SM City Baguio is designed to receive a LEED Gold Rating, which requires the implementation of a minimum of 60 listed points, subject to approval of the Green Building Rating. It also aims to encourage the use of environment-friendly transport by adding an additional mall entrance along Governor Pack Road, the statement said.

Meanwhile, in an interview yesterday, Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said that cutting down trees was often necessary and inevitable for economic development.

"If we do not allow trees to be cut, will there be a development? Even in Boni facio?" he said, referring to the former 250-hectare military camp that is now a sprawling concrete commercial and residential development in Taguig City.

Paje said that giving permission to cut down trees for economic projects was a "difficult" matter for the DENR.

Paje said that the environment department was caught in the middle of the battle between environmentalists and SM City Baguio over the upcoming of 182 trees by the mall in its Luneta Hill compound.

On Wednesday, a Baguio City court issued a three-day temporary restraining order (TRO) against the tree-cutting of trees after environmentalists requested it.

But SM continued to remove the trees under the cover of night.

As of Wednesday, 40 Alnus and one Benguet pine tree had been reported to be earth-balled.

"It's always a balancing. high view are to maintain environmental protection and economic development," Paje said.

"The problem here is that we cannot just subvert private rights," he said.

Paje said the DENR had directed private and public members agencies wanting to cut down trees to implement mitigating measures for the welfare of the public. For every tree they cut, they have to plant three trees in place, he said.

Taxman hounds 3 execs for ₱2-B tax

By Marlon Ramos

THREE executives of a packaging company who allegedly refused to settle close to ₱2 billion in tax liabilities in the government were added to the more than 100 alleged tax evaders charged before the Department of Justice by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares yesterday led the filing of a tax evasion case against Benny Yu, Norberto Duque and Joseph Yu, president, treasurer and trustee/manager, respectively, of Delfonte Marine Carrying Corp. for their "willful failure" to pay taxes for 2007 and 2008.

"They have been audited and assessed for taxable years 2007 and 2008. Despite the assessment become final, they did not settle (the taxes due to the government)," Henares told reporters.

She said the case against the Delfonte officials was the 103rd tax suit filed by the BIR's Run After the Tax Evaders group under the Aquino administration.

According to Henares, Delfonte refused to comply with the letter of authority issued by the BIR which directed the company to submit its book of accounts and other financial records.

She said Delfonte, located in Sitio Sto. Niño, Quezon City, was engaged in manufacturing packaging containers, in addition to sand and crushed boulder.

She said the BIR found out from the Bureau of Customs that the company actually imported goods and other materials amounting to ₱5 billion in 2007 and 2008.

"On the basis of such information, the NIR assessed Delfonte a total deficiency tax amounting to ₱1.93 billion for the two-year period," Henares said.

She said the amount included ₱1.51 billion in value added tax, ₱400 million in income tax and ₱1 million in withholding tax.

Bomb joke not funny for plane passengers

SEVEN passengers were taken into custody by airport authorities on Thursday after one of them reportedly cracked a bomb joke on the Palawan-bound plane they were on was about to take off at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Officers from the Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group (PNP-AVSEG) off loaded the seven identified as Mohamad Sabar Lacsingan, Yahya Lacsingan, Jerome Lacsingan, Zaydel Lacsingan, Rahim Sinsakan, Abdul Majid Patano and Mowalidah Dalidig, all Filipinos who were reportedly on their way to Puerto Princesa City to attend a religious meet.

The Philippines flight 2P 842, was en route to Naia terminal 1 when the pilot, Capt. Cyril Pleyto, radioed ramp control requesting permission to return to the terminal and police assistance after a passenger reportedly said there was an explosive device inside the plane, according to reports reaching the airport's Media Affairs Division (MAD).

At around 4 p.m., the rest of the passengers and crew were allowed to board the aircraft and proceed with the flight to Puerto Princesa. Nina G. Jose

DOST to test 'tawa-tawa' as cure for dengue, TB

By Tara Quintanilla

THE GOVERNMENT's medical researchers have embarked on a new study to determine if there is science in the claim that the plant called "tawa-tawa" has therapeutic properties.

Many Filipinos say tawa-tawa (Euphorbia hirta) is a cure for dengue and tuberculosis. Some doctors frequently interviewed on popular health programs on radio have touted the curative effects of tawa-tawa, but some has categorically said that the plant indeed has medicinal value.

To settle the matter, the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD), the research and development arm of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), is looking into claims that tawa-tawa has antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties and that it can increase blood platelets, vital in the treatment of dengue, a fever that has its big onset, especially among children, in some parts of the country.

"The discovery of tawa-tawa's active ingredient will lead to the development of treatments for dengue and tuberculosis," a statement from the DOST said.

The study is one of the DOST's research priorities on a program aimed at developing drugs from medicinal and natural sources.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday - April 13, 2012
Octave of Easter-Friday
Martin I

1st Reading: Acts 4:1-12

While Peter and John were still speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming that resurrection from the dead had been proved in the case of Jesus. Since it was already evening, they arrested them and put them in custody until the following day. Even though this, many of those who heard the message believed and their number increased to about five thousand.

The next day the council leaders, elders and teachers of the law assembled in Jerusalem. Annas, the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and all who were of the high priestly class were there. They brought Peter and John before them and began to question them, "How did you do this? Whose name did you use?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke up, "Leaders of the people! Elders! If we are questioned today because we are being examined today for a good deed done to a cripple, this was he healed? You and all the people of Israel must know that this man stands before you cured through the Name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, but God raised from the dead. Jesus is the stone rejected by you the builders which has become the cornerstone. There is no salvation in anyone else, for there is no other Name given to humankind whereby we must be saved."

Gospel: John 21:1-14

Jesus revealed himself to the disciples by the Lake of Tiberias. He appeared to them in this way. [...] Simon Peter said to them, "I'm going fishing." They replied, "We will come with you!" and they went out and got into the boat. But they caught nothing that night.

When day had already broken, Jesus was standing on the shore, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus called them, "Children, have you anything to eat?" They answered, "Nothing." Then he said to them, "Throw the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they had lowered the net, they were not able to pull it in because of the great number of fish.

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" At these words, "It's the Lord," Simon Peter put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and jumped into the water. The other disciples came in the boat dragging the net full of fish; they were not far from land, about a hundred meters.

When they landed, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you've just caught." So Simon Peter climbed into the boat and pulled the net to shore. It was full of big fish (one hundred and fifty-three but, in spite of this, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." And not one of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" for they knew it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and he did the same with the fish.

This was the third time that Jesus revealed himself to his disciples after rising from the dead.

Reflection:

They had so recently deserted Him, but he "saved among them," and greeted them with peace. He did not have to humble with scorn, or brush loudly rebuke would have made them feel. He drew new more assuredly or still not they would not have believed). He just stood suddenly inside the circle of their past left to ourselves we would remain imprisoned forever inside that locked door, and all efforts to bring us out would have the opposite effect. He does just come to meet us where we are, come without violence, without argument or explanation, come to liberate us with joy.

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Jinggoy slams door on alliance with GMA parties

By Christian V. Esguerra

SEN. JOSE "Jinggoy" Estrada yesterday slammed the door on two political parties identified with former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo over a possible coalition with the newly formed United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) for next year's midterm elections.

Estrada said he was against accepting prospective candidates affiliated with Lakas-Christian Muslim Democratic Party (Lakas-CMD) and move to rebuild ng Maharang Pilipino (Kampi), a party formed and headed by Arroyo.

As president of Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) of former President Joseph Estrada, the senator signed a "covenant" with Vice President Jejomar Binay's Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) to form the UNA coalition.

The younger Estrada said accepting Lakas members would be "too much of a liability" for UNA.

"They're identified with [Mike] Defensor [President Feliciano Belmonte] Jr. and with GMA [Arroyo], he told the reporter in a phone interview.

Dead party

Estrada was even more emphatic when asked about the possibility of admitting Kampi members to the coalition. "It's a dead party whose leader is now in jail."

Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative, is detained on a charge of electoral sabotage and a separate case of graft over the modified ZTE-initiated National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp.

Estrada "recommended" Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., a close friend of his, for sticking it out with Lakas when he is the party president. "I admire him for not leaving his party mates," he said.

Forces to reckon with

Last Tuesday, Revilla issued a press statement saying Lakas remained "a force to reckon with."

"The next elections are still over a year away and while there are already leaders being sent nothing the party's support, we do not want to focus our efforts there this early," he said.

"Instead of following what other political parties are doing now, our party, through our members who are incumbent officials, would rather spend our energies serving the constituency and addressing their most immediate concerns."

Grassroots membership

Revilla said the strength of Lakas lay in its "grassroots membership, the quality of its incumbent members on the ground, coupled with the support of recognized leaders and senior statesmen."

Ultimately, the party that has the biggest number of performing incumbent officials is the strongest political party," he said, saying that the party continued to enjoy the support of the presidency and officials of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, Vice Mayors League of the Philippines, the Philippine Councilors League, and the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas.

"Lahat ito nasa CDMH [Congresswoman Arroyo] akon. There is room in the party. We are a principled political party with Christian-Muslim Democratic ideals," Revilla said.

"We enjoy the full support of former President Fidel V. Ramos and the party's founding members, coupled with a substantial number of congressmen, governors, board members, mayors and councilors."

Like his father, Estrada said he would be willing to accept politicians identified with Arroyo to UNA's senatorial lineup for 2013. But he said such prospects should not have been involved in any scandal during the Arroyo regime.

Estrada mentioned as possible UNA senatorial candidates former Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri and Zamboanga Rep. Milagros "Milen" Magsaysay. Reps. of Ar-nayo's closest allies.

Binay stands by UNA slate for '13, takes wait-see attitude on LP

From page A1

would not give up UNA's current lineup for the 2013 midterm elections.

"That scenario would be difficult to embrace. It may come to a point that they offer a candidate we won't like or we have a candidate they won't like," he said.

Binay was the guest at the "Usapan at Talakayan" program of dairy farmers at the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) here on Thursday.

Joy de Venecia

He was accompanied by four senators from "Team" de Venecia Brand Candidates Rep. Ma. Milagros Magsaysay, who are among those on the list of UNA's possible senatorial candidates.

Magsaysay said the Nacionalista Party-backed leader's move was introduced as future successor to the 700 dairy farmers who gathered at the PCC hall.

De Venecia, who likes the reliable as alleged anomalies in the government's National Broadband Network deal with Chinese firm ZTE during the Arroyo administration, has said not to the 2013 senatorial elections. Magsaysay is a staunch ally of Arroyo.

'Music to my ears'

Binay was introduced by the program's host as the Pimpo president of the Philippines.

"That's already becoming music to my ears...Anyone who's advancing the topic [there 'ille] will soon reach that goal)," he said.

Not conventional opposition

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the forum, Binay

BINAY: It's even called 'Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.'

DE VENECIA: Not talked to future senator

MAGSAYSAY: My presence speaks for itself.

again stressed that UNA was now the conventional opposition party.

"The real opposition party is not being negative but constructive—always correcting their mistakes and giving advice on what must be done. In other countries, it is even called 'Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition,'" Binay said.

Binay was in Nueva Ecija for a two-day visit. On Wednesday, he met with military officers and soldiers at Fort Magsaysay in Palayan City.

Binay's group also held separate consultations with Gov. Aurelio Umali and former Gov. Tomas Joson III, who leads the Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Blaine).

In Abucay, a member of UNA's executive committee, and the group had yet to finalize its choice. "We will finally know who will join the 12 senatorial slots in May," he said.

Asked about her political plans, Magsaysay said: "I think my presence here will already speak for itself."

"I hope LP members will respect the Vice President's decision," Magsaysay said.

In Manila, Undersecretary Abigail Valte, President Aquino's deputy spokesperson, said the Palace would rather that the LP talk about its plans for the 2013 elections.

"Let us leave it to the Liberal Party to reveal its candidates for 2013," Valte said in a text message to reporters. "Meanwhile, the government will focus on its anticorruption and anti-corruption programs."

Opposition Senate

Valte was asked about the prospect of a Senate dominated by a coalition other than the one led by the ruling party.

Sen. Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes IV, a staunch ally of Mr. Aquino, has warned of an opposition Senate after the 2013 elections because of the unlikely preparations made by Binay.

Binay recently announced the formation of UNA by his party, PDP-Laban, and former Presidents Joseph Estrada's Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino. With a report from Norman Bordadora

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Portion of Balintawak-Lagro Private Distribution Substation to Mega Spectrum Corporation

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and cross-arms along Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. (EDSA) to Brgy. Sparkville Kaunlaran, Quezon City.

MANILA (MALATE)

BETWEEN 11:59PM (TUE., 04/17/12) AND 5:59AM (WED., 04/18/12) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALATE 31U AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALATE 32U

Portion of Toll Ave. from Pablo Ocampo St. (Old Cloud 9) Delta Rd. including Medical Square (redundancy)

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Singalong St. and Taft Ave. in Manila, Manila.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012

MANILA (QUIAPO, SAMPALOC) AND SAN MIGUEL)

BETWEEN 8:00AM-5:00PM AND 9:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 3:45PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS TEGEH 16B AND 114B

Portion of P. Casal and Legarda (by Mini Bus Station to Mendiola St. including Dr. Pandita Crossing Rd., Sto Domingo Brgy. Current, Estrella (Tapia), PLDT – (Lopez Exchange, Technological Institute of the Philip. – Arnaiz, Mla., Pablo Ocampo Mal (DEA College of Law), Brgy. Pio Del Pilar, Makati, Philippine Int'l Air Terminals Co. (PIATCO) Office, Philippine Int'l Convention Center, Philippine Heart Center, Lung Center of the Philippines, Philippine Orthopedic Center, Philippine Children's Medical Center, Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Normal University, Philippine Science High School, Philippine Women's University, Philippine Normal University, Philippine Science High School, Philippine Women's University, Philippine Normal University, Philippine Science High School, Philippine Women's University

Nokor rocket still on launch pad as wary world waits

PYONGYANG/... North Korea's first chance at a rocket launch came and went Thursday without word of a liftoff, but also with no sign that Pyongyang intends to call off what the United States and its allies consider an attempt to test long-range missile technology.

The launch window for what North Korea says is an observation satellite opened during a week aimed at celebrating late founding father Kim Il-sung's 101st birthday on Monday, the country's late leader. Events also include high-level meetings where new leader Kim Jong-un has vowed at least three new tests in further unrest in his rule.

Months of tensions had overwhelmed international organizations that its rocket launch would come between 7 a.m. and noon local time. That timeframe passed Thursday without lift-off.

Japanese Defense officials, who had taken foreign journalists to the launch control center on Wednesday and said landing area under way, did not comment on the timing of the launch beyond saying it would occur in the five-day window.

Bad weather

Poor weather made a Thursday launch unlikely, Philippine disaster management agency chief Benito Ramos said, citing an assessment passed on to him by the Philippine military, which is being briefed by US and Japanese counterparts. Wind in particular can unsettle rocket launches.

The United States, Japan, Britain and others say the launch would constitute a provocation and would violate UN Security Council resolutions banning South Korea from using ballistic missile technology in its space program. Experts say the Unha-3 carrier is similar to the type of rocket that could be used to fire a missile mounted with a nuclear warhead to strike the US or other targets.

North Korea denies that the launch is anything but a peaceful effort to send a satellite into space. The Kwangmyong-song-3 satellite is designed to send back images and data that will be used for weather forecasts and agricultural purposes, it says.

Pyongyang made two previous attempts to launch a satellite, in 1998 and 2009, but the United States and other outside observers say there is no evidence that either reached orbit.

That week's planned launch came with more fanfare, with Pyongyang inviting a possibly unprecedented crowd of foreign journalists and other guests.

Getting into orbit

The Unha-3 rocket has three stages, or parts. If all goes well, the first will burn out and fall in the waters off the west coast of South Korea in about two minutes. The second will separate from it six minutes after the launch, then splash down in the Pacific off the northern Philippines. The third will burn up in the atmosphere after boosting the satellite into orbit.

All this will take 10 minutes. The satellite will then enter a near-polar, sun-synchronous orbit, meaning it will pass over the same point on the Earth at about the same time each day.

The 1000-kilometre (500-mile) altitude announced by the North is considered a low Earth orbit, which is where most civilian satellites go.

Trajectory

Professional and amateur satellite watchers question North Korea's calculations. They note from data provided by Pyongyang that the probe will not be able to reach its orbit without conducting different navigational maneuvers very soon after lift-off. One expert says the rocket will skirt China's east coast near Shanghai, fly over Taiwan and chird to extend stage into the Pacific Ocean (2,500 miles) off the southern Philippines.

Japan and South Korea say they will shoot down the rocket in the unlikely event it veers off course and heads toward their territory.

The satellite

The number refrigerator-sized satellite is covered with solar panels and golden foil to protect its instruments. One source (there few) said and weighing 500 kilograms (220 pounds), the "Bright Shining Star 3" is designed to monitor weather, natural disasters and agriculture patterns. Experts say the satellite and its predecessors, Bright Shining Star 1 and 2, were probably developed with China's help. It is unlikely the latest version could effectively multitask, since it is so small and North Korea has no demonstrated track record with simpler missions.

Odes from space

Pyongyang says the satellite will broadcast musical tunes praising North Korea's founder, Kim Il-sung, to sing Bright Shining Stars 1 and 2, launched in 1998 and 2009, did the same.

But no broadcasts were ever detected, and neither probe is believed to have reached orbit.

If the broadcasts on the Old and X bands are successful, the first independent confirmation would come from monitoring ham radio, which might pick them up within 30 minutes. The west coast of South America would be next, followed by the US east coast. North Korea would not likely hear them until an orbit is 12 hours later. AP

FLIGHT REROUTING A US Army aircraft flies over Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City on Thursday. Several commercial international and local airlines will reroute flights over the Philippines to avoid a rocket North Korea is expected to launch this week. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

'Getting hit by rocket debris like hitting lotto jackpot'

From page A1

And that's the reason, he said, why the government is not shooing people away from the coastlines where they will surely find debris Thursday. It made it for the fall of the first from the North Korean rocket.

The five-day window announced by North Korea for the launch opened Thursday. But if the North Koreans had been ready on Thursday, bad weather forced the cancellation of the launch.

Not to disrupt lives

Information obtained by the Philippine government showed that the launch could take place in the morning between April 11 and April 16, between 6 a.m. and noon.

"That means we should be alert only during these hours," Rolando said. "We don't want to disrupt the people's lives any more than necessary," he said.

Rolando was here to attend the opening ceremonies of the 9th National Disaster Consciousness at the Baguio Country Club.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Executive Director Benito Ramos did not leave a sigh of relief after North Korea failed to launch the rocket.

But as recent as last on Thursday, the agency chief said, the rocket is on the launch pad in northwestern Luzon for the rest of the day.

The launch pad is also effect again at the same hours Friday until after the launch, any day till Monday.

"Technician can resume their activities until 5 a.m. (Friday). We will know what again when night is in. (Friday)," Ramos told reporters.

"I cannot lead-relieved," Ramos said. "Good for you you can go home also. I will stay out here. I will not be able to sleep again tonight."

Air Marshal Jaime Bautista, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, said the military is ready to shoot down the rocket if it veers off course and heads toward their territory.

Bautista said the military has also activated its Air Defense Command Center to monitor the rocket's trajectory.

Bautista said the military has also activated its Air Defense Command Center to monitor the rocket's trajectory.

NDRRMC Director Benito Ramos, along with members of the media, watches television coverage of North Korea's preparation to launch its rocket. Ramos secured the guide during Thursday's press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City that contingency measures are in place. EDWARD KIMAYONG

Bautista said the military is also activated its Air Defense Command Center to monitor the rocket's trajectory.

In Cagayan, the danger of getting hit by rocket debris has not prevented fishermen in the northern coastal towns of the province from going out to sea, defying a government declaration of the area a "no-sail" zone.

Local officials in Buguey, Santa Ana and Gonzaga, three Cagayan towns expecting falling debris from the rocket, told the disaster that local fishermen were reported to have been seen heading off to sea at dawn Thursday.

"We cannot stop them. They believe the debris will fall far from where they say they will be fishing," Gonzaga Mayor Carlito Pentecostes Jr. said, quoting village officials in his town.

As he could not stop fishermen from the town's 11 coastal villages from plying their trade, he said, the best he could do was to warn them of the danger from debris falling from the rocket launch.

In Buguey town, fishermen were not barred from launching and to cooperate local officials received no instructions from higher authorities, according to Mayor Loreta Antiporda III.

Mayor Darwin Tobias of Santa Ana said the debris scare did not prevent fishermen in his town from going to sea. Tobias said the fishermen believed that rocket parts falling in their fishing grounds are valuable.

Coast Guard speaks

But the Philippine Coast Guard on Thursday reasoned its appeal to fishermen in the northeastern side of the country to stay close to the shore until Monday next week.

Rear Admiral Rodolfo Isorena, the commander of the Philippine Coast Guard in Cagayan and the other provinces in the northeastern part of Luzon Region, said the rocket, if launched, would fall in the northeastern side of the Philippines, the Coast Guard said.

"We are reiterating our appeal for our fishermen to stay within the 15 kilometers of the municipal waters," Lt. Cmdr. Algie Rivaherera, Coast Guard spokesperson, told reporters.

Isorena said the Philippine Coast Guard has the responsibility for the monitoring of fishermen's movements in their areas.

He said the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources vessels manned by Coast Guard personnel were deployed to the danger zone. Otecs at Port Irene in Cagayan and the other in northeastern part of the province of Isabela.

In that region, disaster officials deployed a four-member quick-reaction team to the island-province of Calayan town to retrieve rocket debris that may fall there.

Calayan town Gov. Joseph Cua also suspended on Thursday the operation of the ferry MV Dalton, named by his family, as a precaution. The ferry operates between Talaan City on Babuyan and San Antonio in Calayan town.

Another ferry, the MV Eugenia, which plies the Batanes-Aparri route, continued to run services on Thursday.

Other quick-reaction teams were formed in Cabarroguis North and Cauayan. Isa and they were ready on Thursday to deploy should rocket debris be reported in coastal towns.

The teams had orders to retrieve the debris and to take them to the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute to test for radioactivity.

In Baguio, Rolando said the government was informed about Indonesia's going to use the Thursday morning deadline for its warnings.

But the government, he said, decided that disrupting the fishermen's work may not be productive, as the state had only little information about the rocket launch.

Skylab experience

"This is like our experiences with Skylab," Rolando said.

The Skylab was a US satellite that drew global attention in 1979 when its orbit was sparked fears about debris falling on populated areas.

The Philippines was also placed on alert, but no Skylab debris, which did not burn on reentry, fell in Philippine territory. Debris fell off Western Australia. **Report from Inquirer Northern Luzon, Inquirer Southern Luzon, Darryl Pachoguin, Christine O. Avenante and Jerome Aning**

Assistant Editor Tony Bengcoja

Across the NATION

Eastern Samar gov defies court order on budget

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—As the risk of being cited in contempt of court, Eastern Samar Gov. Conrado Mitmit Jr. openly defied a temporary restraining order (TRO) preventing him from using his administration's budget this year.

"I know the implications of my action," said the governor. "I am willing to take the risks."

Judge Efren Lim, of the Regional Trial Court Branch 1 in the province, issued a TRO on March 19 suspending the use of the provincial government budget until the court rules on the validity of its passage.

The P662.95 million budget of Eastern Samar for 2012 was questioned by several provincial board members who filed a petition for injunction and issuance of a TRO at the court in January.

Provincial Board Members Ashwin Uy, Byron Kapat, Jimmie Gubaton, Jerry Babilonia, Beatriz Reyes and Joji Himaliana claimed that Ordinance No. 20 embodying the provincial budget was approved despite the failure of the provincial board to muster the required number of votes.

Key suspect in Ortega case surrenders

By Redempto D. Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—One of the key suspects in last year's murder of Palawan broadcaster and environmentalist Dr. Gerry Ortega surrendered to police Wednesday night, authorities announced yesterday.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn and City Police Chief Supt. Abad Dill announced the surrender of Jerone "Nonoy" Regalado, the personal aide of former Gov. Joel "I. Reyes, the alleged mastermind in the killing, to police who has gone into hiding after an arrest warrant was issued against him by a Palawan court.

Hagedorn said Regalado turned himself in to police in Malate on Wednesday past 11 p.m.

Regalado, a former volunteer of the provincial capitol when Reyes was governor, has been tagged by investigators as the main resource for the group of hired killers from Pagbilao, Quezon, who performed the hit on Ortega last June 24, 2011 inside a hotel clothing store in the city.

Regalado presented himself to the National Bureau of Investigation in Dolores on the day after Ortega was shot and asked to be placed under witnesses custody, executing an affidavit that implicated Reyes as the mastermind in the killing.

Coordinator

In his affidavit, Regalado outlined his role in coordinating with Rodolfo Edrad Jr., Reyes' former bodyguard and driver, and retired Maritime Lieutenant and two other companions from Pagbilao, Quezon, to kill Ortega.

Edrad, also known as "Butong," is currently under the state witness protection program of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and is the government's lone witness against Reyes.

Regalado had executed his affidavit when he suddenly left Dill custody and went to Manila, supposedly to participate in the mid-tel preliminaries investigations of the case. He later issued another affidavit to the five panel of prosecutors at the DOJ, denying participation in the murder.

Police had said that Regalado served as the main contact of the group of confessed gunman Reynaldo Bacarro who arrived in Puerto in Princesa less than a week before Ortega was gunned down.

Hagedorn added that another Reyes aide, Ed Lorino, also a suspect in the case, "has extended surrender feelers" to authorities.

"He (Lorino) might also come out very soon, "The mayor said.

Flight

Hagedorn said authorities were validating reports that Reyes and his brother, Coron Mayor Mario Reyes, also an accused in the Ortega murder case until its hiding, have left the Philippines through Kuala Lumpur and fled to Sarawak Malaysia.

"This is just an unverified report but I understand the police are investigating it, "Hagedorn said.

In a recent interview, the former governor's wife, now Vice Gov. Dicta Reyes, broke her silence on the case, saying her husband went into hiding because of threats to his life.

"He is not hiding to avoid justice," said the vice governor. "He will surface at the right time when he is ready to face the charges against him," she said during a break at the provincial board's regular session last Tuesday.

Asked what specific threats were directed against her husband and his brothers, Mario, the vice governor pointed to two pages on the social networking site Facebook posted "by people we don't even know."

One of the postings the vice governor quoted read: "Pity the children of PPC Reyes who stole from the people, a shoot-to-kill order should be out against him, his wife and children."

SCENES like this invite tourists to visit Albay

Tourism chief backs 'Albay Rising'

By Pia S. Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr. has declared Albay as a rising tourist destination in the country after the province pursued an aggressive tourism program that propelled its economic growth.

Jimenez, who was here on Tuesday for the opening days of Albay's annual marketing Bikgayan Festival, said the investments poured in by Gov. Joey Salceda on tourism programs boosted the province's economic activity.

Jimenez, citing tourism statistics in 2011, said at least 550,000 tourists came to Albay that year or a 17 percent growth rate compared to the national growth rate of just 10 percent.

In a press conference, Jimenez said at least 3.9 million tourists came to the Philippines in 2011 and 4.6 million in 2012.

Choosing his tourism campaign slogan, he said "It is more fun in Albay" because the people of the province are known for their hospitality.

Albay, he said, has capitalized on people, festivals, history, culture and arts, in countries, combinations on people are involved, he said, because "tourism is a business of the people."

In the same press conference, Salceda said Albay was now moving toward tourism and agriculture after making its mark in the field of health, education, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptations.

Salceda, adopting "Albay Rising" as the province's slogan, said the slogan is largely anchored on the development of the tourism industry.

Among the province's tourist attractions are the active and nearly perfect cone-shaped Mayon Volcano, the historic Cagsawa Ruins and many fine beaches.

The provincial government has prepared a package of 138 events for the Bikgayan Festival, which is now in its fifth year.

Among the highlights of the festival is the staging of "Dance of the Three Mountains," a play written by writer Alaksa Salcido, an Albay native, on the volcanoes. The play is about the legend of three sisters—mountains Bilagayan, Masaraga and Malinao—that became the story of Mayon Volcano, too.

Palace plays peace broker for mall, tree transfer foes

BAGUIO CITY—Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo on Thursday said Malacañang will gather officials of the shopping mall giant SM and the city government and representatives of environmental groups on April 16 to settle their dispute over the displacement of 181 trees from Luneta Hill to make way for the mall's expansion.

A 72-hour temporary restraining order (TRO), that will expire today (Friday, April 13), prompted SM Investments Corp. to stop such building operations at the western section of SM City Baguio, which were intended to transplant more than 100 trees to another portion of the mall's compound on Luneta Hill.

Some Antamok Baguio residents, church leaders, artists, students, teachers and members of nongovernment organizations have been protesting in the streets and online against the tree relocation.

Robredo, who was guest at the 9th International Igorot Conference here on Thursday, said government is facilitating the talks in Malacañang but will not offer a solution for the standoff between Baguio residents and SM.

"I have discussed this with the SM president this morning... But since we are not from here, it is best that the community settle this issue among themselves," he said.

Zoning plan

Robredo said government is preparing a draft comprehensive environmental zoning plan for Baguio and Benguet Island to set up conservation programs for these two popular tourist destinations.

President Aquino issued a March 27 memorandum that directs three agencies to draw up a comprehensive plan for Baguio and Boracay Island to set up conservation programs for these two popular tourist destinations.

His Aquino's memorandum was addressed to Robredo, Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima. It cites the President's concern over "various reports and feedback about the poor condition of the city of Baguio and the island of Boracay."

"Baguio, the summer capital of our country, is very much different from the Baguio we know them," Mr. Aquino said in the memorandum.

Baguio, said the President in his memorandum, has "lost its rustic charm."

But when asked, Robredo said the President's plans for Baguio will not shape how the SM controversy could be resolved.

"It's not right to expect that the steps we undertake to protect the environment would challenge development. I mean as a company, but Baguio has loaned investors which took care of the environment. Maybe a middle ground is what we need," Robredo said.

Anyone who intends to set up business will try to use the goodwill of the locality but will also expect a reasonable degree of understanding from the community," he said. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Filipina dead in HK after suicide falls on her

PHOTOS: (CLOCKWISE) HIGHER ed Maria Elisa Cruz (center) and Mayor Herman Bragunza (second from right) lead groundbreaking ceremonies for Cluster Factory 1 in Alaminos; funded partly by a grant from Pagcor

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—It was a case of being at the wrong place at the wrong time.

A Filipina domestic helper was killed in Hong Kong after a Chinese woman, who jumped off the rooftop of a building in an apparent suicide attempt, fell on top of the Filipina OFW (inset).

According to a report from Hong Kong received by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) office in Eastern Visayas, Lourdes Nabi, 49, was just passing by a building in Tsikoo Shung, Hong Kong, about 10 a.m. on April 4 when a 46-year-old Chinese woman jumped from the building's rooftop.

But the Chinese woman, identified only as Yin, landed on top of Nabi, a native of Urdaneta town in Leyte who had been working as a domestic helper in the former British colony for 20 years.

Nabi, the Owwa report said, was rushed to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital where she died a few hours later due to severe head injuries.

As of yesterday afternoon, it wasn't clear if Yin was dead, too.

Nabi's remains were lie at Nenuca Mortuary in Brunswick, Hong Kong. Her last known address in Hong Kong was Flat 6 F Yuen Kung Mansion, 24 Tsikoo Shung Road.

Alberto Bolalbo, regional Owwa administrator officer, said the report from the Owwa office in Hong Kong described Yin, 55, as "emotionally distressed" following an argument with her boyfriend the night before she jumped off her building's rooftop.

He said no other details were provided on Yin and Nabi.

Bolalbo, however, said Owwa was providing all the needed help to Nabi's family.

He said Nabi's family would receive $100,000 in financial assistance on top of P50,000 in burial expenses from Owwa.

Her remains were expected to be repatriated after the processing of documents, said Bolalbo.

Hundreds of Filipinas are employed as domestic helpers in Hong Kong and have been tapped as a key contributor in the growth of levels of remittances that bring in foreign currency to the Philippine economy.

Protection for many of them, however, is all but nonexistent. Some persist in working in the Chinese territory despite low wages sometimes equivalent in respect of vouchers in the Philippines. Many others suffer abuses in the hands of their employers.

The exodus continues, however, because of the sheer lack of opportunity in the Philippines. Some of those who flee to Hong Kong for jobs are teachers or nursing graduates in the Philippines who found only jobs far down on luster.

Bamboo gets funds, new role to play in Alaminos project

ALAMINOS CITY—Officials here are gearing for the full operation of a bicycle manufacturing bamboo furniture, tiles and building materials after the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) released a P21-million grant to launch the Hundred Islands Engineered Bamboo (HIEB) project.

Mayor Herman Bragunza said the city government asked Pagcor for funds for the expansion of the processing facility of the KI-Kawayan project, a technology developed by Filipinnovative Home Engineering (HINGE) in Batac City in Ilocos Norte.

The technology transforms bamboo poles into different shapes and sizes that can be used as alternative to wood in building decks, beds, armchairs, tables and other items.

Pagcor chair and chief executive officer Cristina Seguis Jr. said through the project, Bragunza residents will be given short- to long-term employment opportunities.

"That is Pagcor's ultimate goal...to help improve the lives of our countrymen and to make them productive citizens of their communities," Seguis said in a statement.

A groundbreaking for a bigger and more modern eKawayan factory was held on March 28 at Maria Isidro Gonzales Terrace, Poro Point in Barangay Tangcong Bato.

Local officials said it would be the first fully functional factory dedicated to bamboo furniture production in the Ilocos region.

"KAwayan is a very simple and practical technology. While it can modernize the existing bamboo cottage industry, the real adding value in terms of improving ... the quality of bamboo furniture," Bragunza said.

He said bamboo craft is an integral part of the economic life of western Pangasinan and the intention of the eKawayan project is to modernize the industry.

The city government has built a single-story building for the project before hand to house the [illegible] Alaminos bought from DILEEC.

The P21-million grant from Pagcor will be used for building a factor (P7 million), equipment modernization (P6 million), human resource development (P0.5 million), bamboo nursery establishment (P250,000), bamboo plantation (P3.25 million) and minor office [illegible] (P750,000).

The eKawayan technology, Bragunza said, hopes to help save trees. "This is because bamboo, which grows easily, will be used instead of lumber in construction and furniture materials, sparing trees from being cut," he said. Rolando Sarabia, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Work on 55-story Cebu condo stopped

By Cherian Uriel, Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The Cebu City government has ordered a real estate developer to suspend work on its 55-story condominium project on Osmeña Boulevard in this city following the collapse of its protection wall on Tuesday.

The city government also directed officials of Barangay Capitol Site to evacuate residents who live near the collapsed structure.

The Office of the Building Official (OBO) on Tuesday issued the cease and desist order against Taft Property Ventures Development Corp. after the slope protection wall of its condominium project collapsed.

Engineer Josefa Tiñana, OBO acting chief, directed Taft Property to focus on restoring the collapsed wall and ensuring the safety of the area.

"Before proceeding with the work, you are hereby required to secure the permit," said Tiñana in her cease and desist order.

Vincent Tomawog, the site superintendent of Taft Property, confirmed that the firm received the cease and desist order from the city government. "We will respect it," he said.

No one was hurt when the stretches caved in but it sent families running out of their homes when the ground shook during the collapse. With a report from Darlie C. Bongcaya, Inquirer Visayas

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OPINION

Reform or remove

EDITORIAL

THE RECENT initiative of the Department of Budget and Management to make the pork barrel system more transparent and, at least, less vulnerable to corruption, if not totally corruption-free, may not outright achieve its goal, but it is in step with good governance. Public expenditure should be as open and transparent as it can be. This basic democratic principle applies to the executive branch as it should to the judiciary and the legislature should not be an exception.

It is no secret—in fact it is the general perception—that the pork barrel, despite the sagacious of an urgent-, progressive- and benevolent-sounding official name, Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), has long been a source of corruption for unscrupulous officials, from the DBM and implementing departments on to public auditors, local and barangay officials, even private contractors, but, most of all, members of Congress. The PDAF allocation is currently P200 million a year for each senator, and P70 million for each House member.

Based on official statements, the new guidelines will align PDAF projects with the administration's thrusts and priorities and prevent the fund's misuse—or abuse—especially with the 2013 midterm elections fast approaching. For example, a new requirement for a PDAF project's approval is that it should conform to the priority list or standard design prepared by the implementing agency, and only one realignment would be allowed, with the replacement project remaining under the same implementing agency and the same category as the original purpose.

President Aquino's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda has expressed Malacañang's support for "the position taken" by Budget Secretary Florencio Abad and added, for good measure: "[W]e are all for transparency and accountability. [I]t's more to ensure that the funds are properly used."

How can one argue against that statement? But Lacierda himself subsequently did. Instead of ensuring public doubt that the changes may be just a ploy to make it easier for Malacañang to manipulate Congress according to its wishes, he told reporters: "There are those who are like [Dante Jalosjos Rep.] Miro Magsaysay. She is against the administration, she is against the policies. Our concern is, if you're not helping us in our programs, in our policies, we might as well go straight to your constituents [in helping them]." Translation: "You don't toe the line, we park for you."

Magsaysay, a staunch ally of former President Gloria Arroyo and an architect of President Aquino, said the DBM-initiated reforms indicated that Abad did not trust even Mr. Aquino's allies. "It's an insult," she said.

The fact is, the Aquino administration is not the first to use the pork barrel as a squeeze weapon to push its agenda. We need not look far back in history. Everyone and his uncle knows that then Speaker Jose de Venecia could not have been effective in stopping the impeachment complaints against Arroyo without the pork barrel. Proof of Palace control of the House—and there couldn't be many an instance—was De Venecia's utter helplessness in thwarting Eleven Ignominious ouster from power by the machinations of Arroyo's sons, chroniclers House members.

But again it is not just Malacañang that sees the pork barrel as a negotiation chip. Let's hear it from Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco. "How can we gain any leverage from Malacañang when we need something from them if we give up our powers so effortlessly when we do not need anything from them? The budget secretary has really emasculated [speaker Feliciano Belmonte]," this time."

Edutsian Rep. Raymond Palatino sees the DBM terms as a *Gradelsian to Congress' independence*: "It's a Marcos-era legacy when the Palace, through the DBM, assumes control in the chamber. This policy reflects the undemocratic budget process, proof of how difficult it is for even the Speaker to assert his *independence* from the Palace..." Sounds like the judiciary defending its "fiscal independence" from public scrutiny.

It's a shame that this latest debate on the pork barrel smacks primarily of the same dated, hypocritical fears, concerned more about preserving a superficial quid pro quo arrangement rather than addressing the issue's pernicious ruin. But if the members of the House are really serious about restoring their independence from the Palace, that wouldn't be too difficult to do. They can easily remove the one thing that time and again has made them succumb to Malacañang's dictates—the pork barrel.

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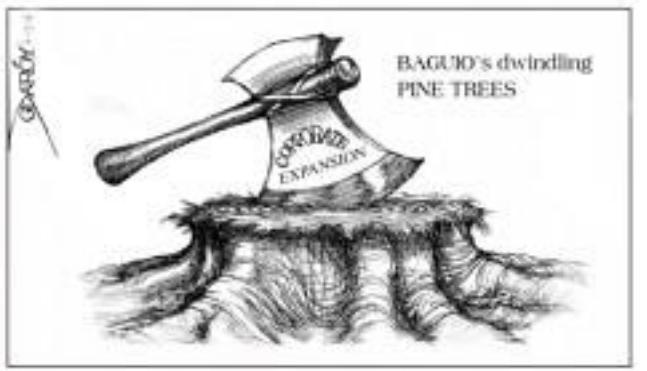
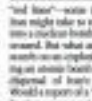


Disarmament wars

WORLD VIEW



Jonathan Schell

NEW YORK—Today, April 13, Iran is scheduled to meet with representatives of China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—plus Germany (the so-called "P5+1") in an effort to decide the fate of Iran's nuclear program. Meanwhile, North Korea is reportedly preparing its third rocket test, as if to provide a discordant musical backdrop for talks.

If the talks fail, and military action against Iran becomes more likely, no one should be surprised. Over the past decade, a new kind of war has been invented: a war designed to stop a country from obtaining nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The first "disarmament war" was the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Its goal, spelled out plainly by [[George W. Bush]]'s administration to the UN Security Council and the UN Congress, was to destroy Iraq's WMD stockpiles and production facilities. Of course, as it turned out, no such stockpiles or facilities were found, and the war proved to be an exercise in bloody futility.

The experience illustrates one of the great drawbacks of the use of force as a tool of disarmament. An attack must be timed to perfection, and it must be launched after the WMD programs are in operation and existing, but before they have produced any weapons. If the attack comes too early—or if, as in Iraq, the programs are not there at all—people will die for nothing. But if the weapons have already been produced, the attack could prompt their use and, possibly, counter-use by the invading party, leading, conceivably, to the world's first two-sided nuclear war.

Although the invasion of Iraq was a debacle, the policy underlying it has survived. Eminently that policy may have been expedient in part precisely because its target was a mirage. In a military action a true test of a disarmament war's efficacy (the ammo's operation) are missing.

Now another disarmament war—this time against Iran—is taking shape. Once again, the intelligence is at best fuzzy. There is much talk of "red lines"—some informal or other step that Iran might take to turn its nuclear-fuel program into a nuclear bomb program—that must not be crossed. But what are these red lines? Would a month or so an explosive less suitable for obtaining an atomic bomb be a red line? Would further dispersal of Iran's nuclear facilities be one? Would a report of a "decision" by someone in the Iranian government count?

In short, Iran can see far more than a red line has been crossed? No one knows, and no one is saying. But it appears that upon such ultimate uncertainties a decision between war and peace will depend.

The Iran crisis raises new issues as well. To achieve lasting disarmament, military action would also have to be lasting, beginning with regime change and continuing until a long occupation. But, while US President Barack Obama has said of Iran that "all options are on the table," occupation clearly is not among them. The American public has lost its appetite for occupying Middle Eastern countries, which invite that only its power is overwhelming. But disarmament also cannot require Iran's nuclear program be more than a year or two.

What an air attack can do—and is likely to do—it is good Iran, which may or may not want to acquire nuclear arms, to launch a crash program to accomplish just that. Should other Middle Eastern countries not follow suit?

The aim of a disarmament war is to prevent proliferation, locally and regionally. Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons is one route to proliferation. But a war to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear armor probably is another and surer route to the same destination.

Fortunately, there may still be a way out of the impasse. Obama has called an Iranian atomic arsenal "unacceptable," Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has repeated, in turn, that building such arms is sin, as well as "useless, harmful, and dangerous." So the two leaders agree. In this, there may be the basis for a deal.

The basis of negotiation is uranium enrichment, which the P5+1 has so far insisted that Iran suspend, at least provisionally, but claims the right to enrich under the terms of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The P5+1 might so that Iran has that right by consulting nuclear programs from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which has declared Iran to be in noncompliance with the treaty. It has been suggested that the United States will demand disinvestment of its enrichment facility in the mountain stronghold of Fordlow.

But the essence of a deal lies in persuading Iran to continue uranium enrichment for civilian purposes, in exchange for full disclosure of all programs, including any that were or are devoted to nuclear weapons research. To facilitate this process, Dieter Goldschmidt, a former IAEA deputy director general, has proposed "a grace period during which Iran would not be penalized should it voluntarily disclose the existence of undeclared nuclear material and activities, and/or acknowledge any past violations of the [treaty] or of its safeguards agreements."

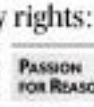
When the cause of peace makes inquiries impossible, forgiveness is never easy. But, like South Africa's post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission, or the Catholic sacrament of confession, Goldschmidt's plan would promote the perfect from less noble to the victory of the good.

Project Syndicate's

Jonathan Schell is a fellow at The Nation Institute and is a visiting fellow at this University. He is the author of "The Seventh Decade: The New Shape of Nuclear Danger."

Disability rights: Betrayal in Geneva

PASSION FOR REASON



Raul C. Pangalangan

IN GENEVA these weeks ago, the Philippines was the only country that took exception to a United Nations resolution to protect persons with disabilities (PWDs) from discrimination. This is a shameful moment for a country that has prided itself as the champion of People Power as a mode of fighting for human rights.

It was supposed to have been a no-brainer, in order to allow the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (or PWD Convention), the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution guaranteeing that PWDs do not suffer from discrimination that will "exclude[s] or restrict [them] political rights" and requiring states to eliminate any law, custom or practice that discriminates against PWDs. It was almost a unanimous and quite pro-consensus, and was adopted at the 19th Ordinary Session of the UN Council.

To the surprise of PWD activists, global and Filipino alike, the Philippine representative, Ms. Theresa Lapitan, took the floor to express our country's "reservation"! She began by affirming our country's support for PWD rights, but concluded by citing its "general comment" interpreting another convention saying that "established mental incapacity may be a ground for denying a person the right to vote or hold office."

As of this writing, the Philippine Coalition on the PWD Convention is up in arms, livid, irked and aghast at the effrontery and lack of feeling our government to recall that reservation.

The coalition rightly points out that a new comment cannot override an express treaty obligation. That comment merely interested the Committee on Civil and Political Rights, specifically the right "to participate in public affairs." The bulk of the comments actually affirm PWD rights to equal participation. "It is unreasonable to restrict the right to vote on the ground of physical disability or to impose fees, etc, otherwise and/or property requirements."

"Mental incapacity" was mentioned merely as a possible restriction, and even that is now outdated, having been superseded by the 2006 PWD Convention that categorically guarantees such equality for PWDs without exception. Our duty is "to ensure that PWDs can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others."

The UN High Commissioner on Human Rights has said: "The legal landscape has changed dramatically since the adoption of the Human Rights Committee's general comment in 1996. Today, it may be argued that the majority of voting restrictions 'are no longer compatible with the prohibition of discrimination ... or with the present-day understanding of democracy.' This holds true, in particular, with regard to limitations of the right to vote and stand for election on the basis of 'psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.'"

Indeed, the Philippine Constitution itself not only does not provide a "mental incapacity" exception but it expressly says that "[n]o literacy, property, or other substantive requirement shall be imposed on the exercise of suffrage." And even requires extra measures for PWDs, "[p]roviders for the disabled and the illiterate to vote without the assistance of other persons."

If the Constitution already contains negative and affirmative obligations to ensure equality for PWDs, why would our representative from Geneva issue Footnotes to create equal exception?

Apparently the camera lens just came about because, one, the Philippines did not follow the usual practice of first engaging the sponsors of the resolution (Mexico and New Zealand), before entering a reservation, and then ended up with an isolated view on one of step with enlightened thinking. And two, our government failed to consult PWDs before it has joined every flesh rights.

"Nothing about us without us." I found those words on a PWD rights website, and they really pack a wallop. Apparently, the Philippines—unlike Thailand and Indonesia—becomes human rights spokesperson who do not have room in either the constituency they purport to speak for, or in the advocacy they purport to embrace. Thus the tendency to denounce abuses and abandon allies when the test of a signed treaty dares one to the bar.

No matter than the better of the law, there is a problem of mindset here. One, our bureaucrats think that when it comes to PWDs, exclusion is the rule, equality the exception. The bureaucrats' instinct, their default position, is to discriminate against PWDs, as if PWDs should expire just to be treated equally in the face of us.

Two, they don't understand the distant second nature of the right of suffrage. How can any government purport to determine who isn't smart enough to vote? There is something inherently undemocratic with idea that we can remove our voters deemed not bright enough. It upsteads the tyranny of an Kyrgyzstan.

Moreover, under the Civil Code, the legal presumption is that persons have capacity to act. Only a court can declare a person incapacitated but, even then, can at best merely appoint a guardian. So can the legal guardian cast the ballot in that place? Ridiculous!

And here's the ultimate irony. Given our track record of electing buffoons, charlatans and stooges to public office, who is there among us who can say that the disabled can't vote because they are not smart as us? As smart as who, for heaven's sake?

One person, one vote. That's the rule. We don't weigh the vote according to the voter's IQ. Basic logic, for just one moment, that we can impose a minimum IQ. Maybe those who think they can't vote should vote—the more wisely because they can see through the hoax and know who among them can't understand.

Comment: rpasang@yahoo.com

Impasses on two fronts

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

THE AQUINO administration faces for the first time two simultaneous impasses in foreign policy and domestic economic affairs—the current standoff between a Philippine warship and two Chinese surveillance vessels in a disputed shoal in the West Philippine Sea (also known as South China Sea) and the critical energy shortage in Mindanao.

These statements confront the nearly 2-year-old Aquino administration with the biggest test of its competence in handling two major foreign and domestic problems. Since last Sunday, the Philippines' biggest warship, the BRP Gregorio del Pilar, has been locked in a standoff with two Chinese surveillance vessels at Scarborough Shoal, which is claimed by the Philippines as part of its territory in the disputed West Philippine Sea. The standoff has hardened as diplomatic negotiations since last Tuesday have failed to break the deadlock, fueling concerns that this impasse might escalate into violent armed encounters.

As Philippine and Chinese foreign ministers of both regimes in quiet but tense diplomatic talks, the Aquino administration, whose popularity has declined to dizzy, underpoint a baptism of fire in crisis management. President Aquino's order to freeze Citi today to provide over a minute can bounce to urgently seek immediate measures to halt the rapidly dwindling energy supply to resource-rich Mindanao, which is home to 24 million Filipinos (a quarter of the country's population). The shortage in Mindanao—the "epicenter" of economic activity on the island at a time when the country is struggling to revive economic growth that has contracted by half during the Aquino administration.

The naval standoff in the West Philippine Sea is the last thing the President needs in distract his attention as he addresses the economy-crippling energy shortage. He and his administration also have to do so amid rising criticism for neglecting the economy during nearly two years, as he relentlessly pursued a single-minded anticorruption campaign that sought to hold officials of the previous administration accountable for alleged corrupt practices, to an effort to prove that he is incorruptible.

The Chinese government in Beijing is not making it easy for the Philippine government to address its domestic issues, and the incumbent of Chinese vessels poaching in waters over which Manila claims sovereignty has severely affected relations between the two countries. Beijing is aggressively asserting its territorial claims in the entire South China Sea, parts of which are also claimed by the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Malaysia.

The Chinese incursions have forced the Philippine government to grapple with not seeing is sure—one on foreign policy and the other on the Mindanao energy shortage. In war or in diplomacy, conventional wisdom and prudence dictate that nations should avoid fighting wars on two fronts. Obviously, the Chinese are drawing the Philippines into this trap.

The Philippine government denies that the standoff with China began on Sunday when members of the Philippine Navy tried to detain Chinese boats fishing in Philippine waters but were stopped by two Chinese surveillance craft. The Chinese Embassy accused the Philippine warship of harassing the fishermen and called for it to leave Chinese territory.

BBC reported that members of the Philippine Navy boarded the Chinese fishing vessels and found a large amount of illegally caught fish and corals. Two Chinese surveillance ships then apparently arrived in the area on Tuesday, placing themselves between the warship and fishing vessels and preventing the Navy from making arrests.

The Chinese Embassy said that the Chinese vessels had taken shelter from a storm in a lagoon, and that Philippine troops were now due in goon and harassed the fishermen. The embassy said the two Chinese surveillance ships were on the scene "after fulfilling the task of safeguarding Chinese maritime rights and interests."

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario contacted China's ambassador to the Philippines, Ma Keqing, to emphasize that the Scarborough Shoal area was "an integral part of the Philippines." Del Rosario said the Philippines was making a "diplomatic solution" to the impasse.

The standoff came as the Philippines prepared for a joint naval exercises with the United States from April 16 to 27, an exercise seen as a show of force in response to the aggressive Chinese naval presence in the South China Sea.

President Benigno Aquino summoned Del Rosario to make this Philippine position clear to China. "What is important here is we take care of our sovereignty. We cannot give Scarborough Shoal away and we cannot depend on others but ourselves." Still, he said, the rules of engagement that he issued to the military were "to ensure no violence will happen there."

He insisted that Scarborough Shoal "is our sovereign territory" and that Philippine officials had merely asked Beijing why it had intruded in its Philippine territory. "But their answer to our charge [of intrusion ... was] the word just is, they turned the tables on us. China is claiming Scarborough Shoal as its indisputable territory, and were presented the entry of our ships there."

Beyond Bataan

APRIL 9 marks the Bataan Day, marking the anniversary of Filipino and American soldiers to the invading Japanese Army. There was strong media coverage of this "Fall of Bataan" and the "Bataan Death March," in which thousands of Filipino and American soldiers were transferred, including several separate on foot, from Mariveles in Bataan to Capas in Tarlac, some 50,000 died from hunger, disease and abuse by the Japanese Army.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I can't remember what the main events were but I do recall watching and probably also having been ordered by my parents to watch why we kept referring to "fall" and "defeat" rather than battles of resistance and victory, April 9 has since been substituted "Araw ng Kagitingan" or Day of Valor, rules have mainly associated with the heroes of World War II. With time, though, because that day was always so close to Holy Week, people have lost sight of what that day means. This year was particularly bad. April 9 probably is to be remembered by many of our younger Filipinos as an extra holiday after Easter, aside of the more regrettable considering this was the 71th anniversary of the Bataan march.

We need to get more serious about April 9 and its remembrance not only the address of Bataan but also the many other terrible atrocities that accompanied the Japanese invasion and occupation. Some 500,000 to a million Filipino soldiers and civilians died during the war, out of a grossest population of 16 million, and many more suffered physical and mental injuries, and the loss of homes and properties.

The Libingan ng mga Bayani and the American Cemetery will be important focal points for the memorial activities today should not forget the Chinese Cemetery which also has several war memorials. Today's column, and next Wednesday's, will be about these memorials.

Let me provide a quick background of why I'm doing this. Last month I wrote a column about getting an evidence phone call from a family friend, Fred Mok, asking if I could help get more information on his father, Clement K. F. Mok, who was among eight Chinese consular staff members executed in 1944 by the Japanese. I wrote a column about Consul Mok with an appeal to readers to write if they had information about him.

The Internet proved to be a useful research portal. While there was very little new information on Consul Mok that came in, I did end up with all kinds of souvenirs about that dark period in our history, they Chan wrote in about her grandfather, Chua Phay Hong, who was among nine local Chinese community leaders executed by the Japanese two days before the consular staff. The Chinese Commercial News e-mailed scanned clippings from its newspaper's special issue in 1987 to mark the 45th anniversary of the executions. I also exchanged e-mails and materials with Wong Yingbi, a journalist from the Beijing Wenhui Bopiran Press, in January 1944 when he was arrested and tortured at the hand of Gen. Masaharu Homma, who led the invasion of the Philippines.

I realized, as I did more research, that the Chinese Cemetery in Manila was the grassroots site for several executions and many mass burials, not just of Chinese but also of Filipinos and Americans. Of the 16,000 graves in the Chinese Cemetery were the site of a battle fought by Filipino resisting American invaders in 1899, a day after the Filipino-American War broke out. Sadly, while the Chinese have war memorials, the Filipinos who died in the battle of the Japanese and the American have nothing, not even simple markers.

Marker I built

This is one issue I wish I could do a blog on, so I can share photos and maps so I take you on a "history trail" tour of the Chinese Cemetery. In case you do go on your own, you can look up the three Chinese memorials, which are clustered around the area of the temple and crematorium.

The closest to the gate is a marker I built in 1997 for the one-year to honor the eight Chinese consulate staff members headed by Clement K. S. Ting and Clement K. F. Mok. Shortly after occupying the Philippines, the Japanese arrested the eight and first put them in UP Manila, trying to persuade them to endorse the Japanese occupation of the Philippines as part of the Asian for Asians plan. They also wanted the Chinese consular staff to make P2M million loan for the financial of the Japanese Army. The Chinese diplomats refused in cooperate.

Even in times of war, diplomatic corps are entitled to special protection under the Geneva Convention, but the Chinese consular staff members knew they were vulnerable, in the end the Consul-General, a Formosan diplomat executed was Consul Mok had told him that he suspected the Japanese would be moving them to Bambinga. On March 28, 1945, the Japanese did transfer the prisoners, but not to Bambinga. Instead, they were brought to Fort Santiago, which was the headquarters of the Kempeitai, the dreaded Japanese military police. The Kempeitai was notorious for its torture, and Fort Santiago was a hell hole where prisoners were tortured and executed.

Mass grave

The consulate staff's families were still able to visit Fort Santiago then when Consul Mok's wife went on April 18, she was told that her husband had been moved "for security" and his whereabouts were a military secret. It was to be two years before she and the other relatives were to learn that the diplomats were brought to the Chinese Cemetery on April 17, executed and thrown into a mass grave. The remains were exhumed in June 1945, following leads from Chinese Cemetery caretakers who witnessed the executions.

The remains of the Chinese patriots were brought to Sangley, China, where they are buried in Nanjing Taisi Haven Yenwan Cemetery. The Chinese government constructed memorial activities this year to mark the 70th anniversary of their deaths. Fred Mok attended; it was an emotional from visit to his father's grave and to see it well-kept. According (pronounced Ching Ming), the Chinese day to commemorate the dead.

Locally, the Chinese Commercial News will have a special issue to commemorate the consular staff, as well as another group of local Chinese martyrs. I am going to save for next week's column the story of the Chinese Filipino guerrillas, the intriguing group of Chinese guerrillas who fought together with the Hukbalahap. I will write, too, about the Filipinos executed/killed on or near the Chinese Cemetery.

* * *

Announcement: The UP College of Social Sciences and Philosophy will hold a workshop on "Innovations in Philippine Social Teaching and Research in the Digital Age" on April 17-20 at UP Diliman. The workshop is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education. Call 981-8500 local 2450 or (0915-906-1698 for more information.

* * *

Email: mtan@inquirer.com.ph

Defending our sovereignty

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

1962 INCIDENTS have heated attention on our national sovereignty, how we defend it, and actually, how little we can do in the face of another country's armed might or cluelessness.

We're talking about China, of course, and its assertion of sovereignty over the Scarborough Shoal, which lies off the province of Zambales in the West Philippine Sea (otherwise known as the South China Sea). President Aquino has assured Philippine sovereignty over the disputed area, and until he hoped for a "peaceful resolution" of the issue. The standoff, today almost a week old, between fishing vessels were blocked by two Philippine Navy ships which would have detained the crews of the vessels had not two other Chinese surveillance craft prevented them from doing so.

The other incident has to do with the planned launch of a rocket by North Korea, in the direction of orbital or lunar space, apparently the size of a ceiling crane, would have fallen into Philippine territory. Latest news is that the People's Democratic Republic of Korea has postponed the rocket launch in view of unfavorable weather conditions that it will not issue. The standoff would have been averted if no

Man cannot play God

LETTERS

THERE SEEMS to be a renewed agitation to reimpose the death penalty, a form of judicial incarceration, a variant of the corrupticidal variety, in my view.

I oppose it in the same way I opposed it in my time in the Senate. From a majority of one, my vote down to four in the 1993 elections approached. But Manong Johnny Ulat, Atike Tamano, Jerry Lim and I succeeded in blocking it. Death penalty was reimposed the year after I left the Senate in 1995.

If really the death penalty deters, we may as well impose it on every crime, or have a crime free society. But it does not. Nor the supermarket density of criminal law, as if one has a copy of the Revised Penal Code and anyone is commit only one of those that are not punishable by death, a criminal mind does not operate that way.

I have long opposed the death penalty for logics, it is incipient-less, simplest and antiwall it). The good boy from, the dark boy from, as it has been called.

Most of those who may deserve to be sent to the Promised Land may be in the legislature, for their heinous crimes against the people.

One should not underrate the capacity of anybody for redirection growth and change. By the time one is sent to death, he has very well have redeemed.

His mentor Father Gloria Macapagal Arroyo shortly after in 2006 prior to visiting Scituate she requested death penalty law she must be commended for her decision based on the basic human right of all, the right to live, to commit no law jurisdiction with murky mind on the issue as a criminal.

The Old Testament law the exchange rate of ranging from 1:1 to 77:1. This is the Lex Talionis come. An eye for an eye, it was a fortunate way. Having proportionality or equivalence.

But the New Testament introduced the Law of Love or Charity, of turning the other cheek.

Well, may we ponder these thoughts after the Holy Week to-end's past. May current play God and decide who will live and who will die. We cannot murder, judicially or extrajudicially.

—RENE SAGUISAG, ruedsaguisag@gmail.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Tigao and Makati streets, City of Makati or send a fax to him. 897-8703, 897-8704, or e-mail [illegible]. Letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

HAABAAYAN coalition president and former Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo speaks at the "Hastened Small Caucus Farmers' Summit" in Lucena.

Can the President go against Cojuangco's interests?

THERE IS in essence or Malacañang's argument on the issue of refusal to do with the recovered coco levy funds and assets. Former groups had earlier suggested that the CIIF-SMC unit dividends currently amounting to almost P 10 bil. [illegible] should go to help the scientific [illegible] and the coconut industry.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad and Philippine Coconut Authority administrator Euridice Bolina both opposed that Malacañang may not do anything with the funds until such time that the Supreme Court resolves the issue with finality. Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa pronouncements do not answer the basic question on what to do with the funds once the Supreme Court decision on the matter becomes final—as sometimes the coconut farmers are nearly dead from President Aquino, who has been mum on the issue even since his election bid in 2010.

The SMC block of shares referred to was, indeed, stolen this year, the Supreme Court to be public servants of by the government in trust for all coconut farmers. The same decision even pointed out that such funds and assets may be used only for the benefit of all coconut farmers and for the development of the coconut industry.

Gandel filed a motion for reconsideration to deny private ownership of such shares as it was finally did in the past. It has been doing this since 1996 on legal grounds with government [illegible] as one of seven members that would give Gandel a role in the handling of the public funds. But it is still a matter of time. The particular case garnered the votes of 13 justices without any dissenting opinion, unlike the other SMC block which was granted to Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. for the government's failure to prove that he was indeed a crony of former President Ferdinand Marcos—which is the "biggest joke" Filipinos have heard this century.

Surprisingly Abad and Bolina remained silent despite being ordered without reconsideration of the coco levies, in effect, ignoring the real issue. It appears that even with a defined judgment by the Court, the Aquino administration cannot give coconut farmers a genuine [illegible] Coconuts. This also explains the curious mind of appointments made by the President of people close to Cojuangco to coco levy funded companies, from the Office of the Solicitor General, the office tasked to handle coco levy cases for the government, has been placed under a former SMC lawyer.

—JOSE C. HUETING, executive director, Coconut Industry Reform (COIR) Movement Inc., 42 Sinclair Ext., Central, Diliman, Quezon City

We stand by the decision of STC, our alma mater

SS MONICA BRIGID Cruz Theotocoke, sss (Mrs. Teresa de Jesus Alcantara, Esther Rabuh Lopez, Maritess Vergara Mendoza, Virginia Lim Go, Evelyn Ong Cabrera, and the undersigned) are [illegible] to the ongoing controversy regarding Sr. Theresa's College Celso's decision to dismiss from high school seniors from participating in the graduation ceremony. We single them out because they are the ones who [illegible] and who should be treated [illegible] students were allowed to graduate but not to march.

When parents choose to put their children in a particular school, it is expected that they and their children will adhere to the rules and regulations. St. Theresa's College (STC) has been known, over generations of students, for its high academic standards and discipline. It has nurtured and shaped leaders and women of substance. This is the reason why STC has endured and has been revered by its alumnae for years.

STC prepares its students for life through parental principles and Christian values established in its historical credentials, rehearsed activities and disciplines. Complying with the rules is an integral part of molding the girls in its system. The rule-abiding students are not alone in our fellows the norms and conditions of a book in order to enjoy the privileges of using its courts court, failure to do so results in risk privilege being revoked, or, not, in abiding by the rules of the school of choice, or any organization, for that matter.

By now, people should have realized that posting entries in Facebook or other social networks can no longer be considered a private matter. Once posted, an entry ceases to be private and becomes public domain, available to anybody after in the Internet, and one loses control over it, as parental pen passes out and takes on a life of its own. For example, commenting that in cyberspace is now considered a criminal act.

Our youth can be led to become self, irresponsible, and not this living, lulled to believe that they can commit suicide or misdemeanors, and go unpunished or be excused from it. It is up to us and nurturing institutions like STC to prevent this.

We send the wrong message that one may act in any way when there are no consequences to bear. When discipline is imposed, parents and the child concerned shout "Foul!" Whatever happened to the time honored virtues of freedom and responsibility? We cannot be breeding a generation of delinquents young who grow into irresponsible and insensitive citizens, parents, politicians, etc.—all leading to a society of sulfid [illegible] ones?

Proper discipline is one of the hallmarks in Christian. A good parent disciplines a child who grows out of line. It does not scar the child, but rather, it builds character and integrity—traits we are now sorely in more need of. By allowing a wrong to go unchastised, we do a disservice to the child concerned and to the world with a [illegible] values of value is right and wrong. Every time we crumble in the face of criticism, or yield to the threat of "child abuse," we only dull the effect of applied discipline.

We think our alma mater and St. Theresa will smile at us as we remain faithful daughters of STC!

We continue to praise the wisdom of our patron, "St. Theresa, bad, bad to them!"

—REL. SCHOLASTICA ESPERANZA-ESPEJUEL, para presidentes, STC Cebu Parents' Council (1995–1997), 115 Gil. College Rd., Mabolo [illegible]@yahoo.com

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Learn from data-backed research, not myths

REAL CRUZ'S March 22 column on the increase in taxes and smuggling in Ladera with unnecessary, data-and-fact-free fear.

First, she asserts that high prices will not discourage consumption, disregards the fundamental law of demand (i.e., as prices increase, demand falls). The same is true with cigarettes and alcohol: that a tax hike significantly lowers consumption, particularly among the poor and youth in various studies. A World Health Organization study in fact emphasizes that raising prices is the "most effective way to curb [the] use" of cigarettes.

Second, although it is true that "smoking and drinking are addictions," Cruz's claim that price hikes would curb demand has no basis. Studies have found that the poor are more price sensitive—which means that a price increase is a greater disincentive to those that can least afford to smoke or drink.

Third, even in countries (e.g., Thailand) with very high tax rates, the tax revenues continue to be significantly high levels. Although a price increase might invite smuggling, the [illegible] to engage in smuggling are corruption, lack of governance [illegible] and poor law enforcement.

In Canada, the tobacco tax hike was wrongly blamed for the rise in smuggling incidents, which were actually organized by the tobacco industry's "export" campaign to favor tax reductions. After taxes were lowered, settlements [illegible] in fresh tobacco consumption ensued, leading to even [illegible]. Despite the increase in taxes, further smuggling was prevented due to effective government administration. The lesson we can learn from the Canadian experience is that, [illegible] the real problem here lies by reducing the taxes but by government's efforts to implement existing anti-smuggling control measures.

In Singapore, which has one of the highest cigarette prices in the region (200 percent increase in prices from 1990–2005), consumption decreases to plunge (2.10 kg in 1990 to 0.75 kg in 2005). There, evidence shows that tax products have inelastic demands—which simply implies that significant revenues can be had while effectively reducing smoking incidents.

Wealth, the spin about the "tobacco farmer as a victim of tax more" has long been distrusted. A study conducted by a UP-Diliman, Dr. Rafael Espino, found that tobacco farmers are able to earn a respectable [illegible] difficulty. Data from the Bureau of Agriculture Statistics have corroborated the finding, as indeed, many farmers even the years have shifted from tobacco to other crops. Furthermore, the net tax bill will surmark 5% percent of the incremental revenue to be collected by the government to promote economically viable alternatives for tobacco farmers and workers.

Indeed, we must teach from the issues of tobacco. But basing arguments from others we learn from scientific research and [illegible] and research, not from unfounded claims and empty assertions.

—LAURENCE GE, researcher, Action for Economic Reforms, 132 West Ave., Quezon City

Checkpoints: Don't get out of your car!

By DJ Yap

RIGHTS-BASED POLICING Do's and don'ts for motorists

KNOW your rights and don't do anything crazy when you are approached by a police or military checkpoint. Never get out of the car. Do not submit to a body search. And you may refuse to open your trunk or glove compartment.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) yesterday issued guidelines for proper conduct at checkpoints for policemen as part of what it called "rights-based policing."

"This public advisory guides motorists on how to deal with authorities at checkpoints and ensure its implementation on proper searches and seizures to avoid violations of human rights," Chief Supt. Agnimiro Cruz Jr., PNP spokesperson, said in a press statement.

Cruz said the advisory should also serve as a warning to erring policemen and encourage the elimination of illegal checkpoints.

"In the promotion of rights-based policing becomes a focal point on the agenda of the PNP leadership, the conduct of police or law enforcement must be in compliance with human rights standard," Director General Nicanor Bartolome, the PNP chief, said.

The advisory follows:

"The checkpoint must be well lighted, properly identified and manned by uniformed personnel. Upon approach, slow down, dim headlights and turn on cabin lights. Never step out of the vehicle. Look all down. Only visual search is allowed. Do not submit to a physical or body search. You are not obliged to open glove compartment, trunk or bags. Ordinary routine questions may be asked. Be courteous but firm with answers. Assert your rights, have presumption of innocence and be not passive. Keep your driver's license and car registration handy and within reach. Be ready to use your cell phone at anytime. Speed-dial emergency numbers. Report on malicious immediately. Your actions may save others."

The PNP Chief said, now also has a "no tint" or "clear window" policy for marked police vehicles and similar official vehicles to boost public confidence in the police.

The policy "promotes accountability in government and may also serve as deterrent check on corruption," Cruz said.

He explained: "The use of dark or heavy tints is helpful, and even necessary, in case of surveillance and other similar law enforcement operations. But for other purposes, tints are used for marked vehicles which are readily identifiable and cannot reasonably be used for legitimate cover work."

Finding, Cruz said, gives some people a sense of impunity that makes them violate even the simplest of laws, such as traffic rules.

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3rd Sino ship enters Scarborough shoal

From page A1

"I don't think it should be a cause for concern. I understand the third ship is attached to the fisheries department of the Chinese government," he said. "I might ask Ambassador Ma casually why there is another ship there, what's the purpose of that ship," he said, stressing that he was "working hard to answer as a diplomatic resolution."

"We're watching developments," Del Rosario said. "I don't see any tension rising. No increase in tension, we're trying to avoid doing that. Hopefully we could arrive at a resolution as negotiations continue."

Part of defusing the tension was the withdrawal of the navy's largest warship, the Gregorio del Pilar, according to Pinlac. He said the business the two Chinese vessels are not sensitive but "more on maritime ships."

Pinlac also said the Gregorio del Pilar was going to be on standby for any contingency that may arise from the launch any day now of the North Korean rocket.

The standoff began on Saturday when a Philippine Navy plane spotted eight Chinese fishing vessels in a lagoon at Scarborough Shoal. The BRP Gregorio del Pilar was dispatched to the area on Tuesday and intercepted to detain Chinese fishing boats found with large amounts of illegally harvested marine species.[1] Two Chinese marine surveillance craft intervened, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Del Rosario said he expected a breakthrough before he leaves for the United States this weekend to campaign for Justice Florentino Feliciano, the Philippine candidate in the International Court of Justice.

Pinlac also said the Gregorio del Pilar was going to be on standby for any contingency that may arise from the launch any day now of the North Korean rocket.

"The standoff began on Saturday when a Philippine Navy plane spotted eight Chinese fishing vessels in a lagoon at Scarborough Shoal. The BRP Gregorio del Pilar was dispatched to the area on Tuesday and intercepted to detain Chinese fishing boats found with large amounts of illegally harvested marine species." Two Chinese marine surveillance craft intervened, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Del Rosario said he expected to exercise full restraint and seek a diplomatic resolution," a State Department spokesperson in Washington said on customary condition of anonymity according to the Associated Press.

The lack of an official US statement on the issue situation in the South China Sea, which Manila calls the West Philippine Sea, has worried Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

"Why is the US eminently silent this time," Honasan said in a phone interview with the Inquirer. He urged President Aquino to "qualify" the terms of military and defense treaties with Washington.

"So what is the use of the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Visiting Forces Agreement for? We have a problem in Scarborough, how will you help us? Will you help us? Otherwise, what is the treaty for?"

Rep. Miro Rep. Neri Colmenares said Malacañang should not think "From all indications, the Chinese are well keen on intruding on our territory to get to our resources," he said.

Not giving up

Lt. Gen. Anthony Alcantara, head of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Northern Luzon Command, said he had relieved the BRP Gregorio del Pilar since the Coast Guard vessel's not narrow vessel, BRP Pampanga, had arrived in the area to enforce maritime laws. He said a second Coast Guard ship was also expected there.

"Our Navy is still there. We will support them. We are not giving up anything," Alcantara said when reached by phone yesterday afternoon. "We are still assuring our claim, our ownership of the shoal. That's clear."

Del Rosario said late Wednesday that for a possible solution but declined to give details.

"We have to listen to him that we're trying to address to a civilized and friendly way. I'm hopeful that our long-standing friendship will make us arrive at a diplomatic solution fairer," he said.

While they worked toward a compromise, both China and the Philippines also flexed their muscles. Del Rosario said after the first round of talks on Wednesday that he warned China's ambassador that "if the Philippines is challenged, we are prepared to secure our sovereignty."

The Chinese Embassy said the fishing boats had taken shelter from storms in the lagoon and accused Philippine troops of harassment. With reports from Jerome Aning, Michael Lim Ubaldo and Inquirer Research

20 Vietnamese fishermen off Palawan

By Berlinda D. Ayola
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY — Twenty Vietnamese fishermen were arrested for poaching Thursday morning in the west of Balabac in southern Palawan, according to the Naval Forces West.

The report said BRP Emilio Jacinto (PF-15) intercepted the Vietnamese boat some 9.3 nautical miles (17.5 km) southwest of Marivelles Point, Balabac, while it was en route to meet another vessel to load illegally caught sea turtles.

Naval spokesperson Lt. Noel Caduyac said the arrests were made after local residents reported that a suspicious giant metal vessel was transporting turtles was sailing into another vessel on the high seas in an area called Nanalunan Shoal.

An initial inventory report reaching the Naval headquarters here said that fishing paraphernalia used for catching live turtles were confiscated, along with the turtles.

The Emilio Jacinto, commanded by Lt. Cmdr. Bernie U. Tribo, sailed for Puerto Princesa Thursday noon to unload the 20 other naval boat, the BRP Ismael Lendino (PG-383), Caduyac said.

DOE: Mindanao to get some relief from brownouts by May 19

From page A1

170-MW shortage currently being felt in Mindanao.

But this promises quickly came with a caveat. The energy secretary said he could not execute a "no-brownout scenario" yet because "you have 38,000 to 40,000 pieces of equipment, and anyone of them can break down anytime."

He said the island's reserves were not enough because of the basic problem, which is lack of base-load generation. Base-load facilities are plants that can provide stable power supply 24/7 like coal-fired, geothermal and to some extent hydropower facilities.

Complex problem

Almendras acknowledged that not even emergency powers for President Aquino could come up with an immediate solution for the Mindanao power woes but said the current supply situation on the island had become so complex over the past decade.

He said the situation reflected the conflicts and problems rooted in social, political and environmental concerns.

As a result, these concerns have become a disincentive to prospective investors in the power sector, Almendras said.

This partly explains why Mindanao continues to be heavily reliant on hydropower plants, which provide more than half of the island's electricity requirements.

Currently, Mindanao's base-load power generation accounted for only 37 percent of its total capacity compared with the 63.99 percent base-load capacity in Luzon and 71.88 percent in the Visayas.

Summit today

"This is why we're having the Mindanao power summit [today] because the objective of this summit is for all players to come together and understand the root problems. I will say, yes, we're short of your expectations in the implementation of the law. I'm not saying, we're blameless," Almendras said.

"But the point is, we all have to share. The national government, local governments, the private sector will have to do their share. The key is, we must come up with a long-term solution because if we are merely again with stop-gap measures, then we are like the long-term [situation] again," he said.

The energy chief also pointed out that the current situation is a case where all players that the power woes would not be solved unless there was a concerted effort to address it.

Band-aid solutions

Mindanaoans must also understand that the Aquino administration has no choice but to implement costly "band-aid solutions" that may jack up the island's electricity prices to ease the power supply crunch, he said.

Almendras said all measures at the moment were "stop gap" because the base-load capacity from new coal-fired facilities, which will be able to ensure adequate supply in Mindanao, were expected to start operating only by the end of 2014 or 2015.

Pay-true cost

"Mindanao has to accept the fact that it has to start paying for the true cost of electricity[1]. We have since realized that Mindanao is a special area. But to put things in perspective, even an additional 54 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) increase in charges when they buy diesel will give them power prices way below those in Luzon and the Visayas," he said.

Over the next few months and until 2015, the energy department will implement a number of stop-gap measures to ensure adequate supply, but these can jack up prices by 55 centavos or as much as 80 centavos per kWh.

Barges

The department is now working on having the 116-MW Iligan plant to start operating and are transferring two barges, which have a combined capacity of 128 MW, to Mindanao from Luzon.

Almendras said the DOE was also urging the state-run Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. to fast-track the auction of four power barges (PB 101-104) to enable winning bidders to transfer three of them to Mindanao from Iloilo.

"We want to move the additional power generation and do it in the next two to three months so these facilities will reach Mindanao before the summer of 2013. Summers are really a problem in Mindanao," he said.

"So we're hoping that will take care of 2013 and 2014," he added.

Real solution

But the real solution, according to Almendras, will come from having newly-diagnosed facilities in Mindanao. When these power plants are up and running, the government will be able to request state rehabilitation for Agus and Pulangi hydropower complexes to enable them to generate power at their combined installed capacity of 982 MW from the current generation of 646 MW, he said.

"So the actual usable power facilities at base load because we don't want to put our eggs in one basket. The idea is to have as many options for energy sources. That would be sure ideal," the energy secretary said.

Wise investors

For now, the administration continues to woo investors to put up power facilities in Mindanao, alongside efforts to enable electric cooperatives (ECs) into contract with the awarded capacities for their electric facilities and long-term contracts.

There is also a renewed push to connect all the islands via the Leyte-Mindanao Interconnection Project (LMIP), now estimated at over P24 billion, up from the previous estimate of P18 billion. A power cable under the Visayan and Mindanao sea interconnected, which allows the transfer of electricity between the two island groups.

Had the project been pursued as planned in 2004, the line would have saved Mindanao from running into power because Luzon has supply reserves of as much as 1,700 MW, while the Visayas enjoys a surplus of 600 MW.

A feasibility study for the LMIP project though has yet to be conducted.

"We have also been aware of the problems since we came in 2010 and we're trying our very best to solve it. We have a plan, but unfortunately, the plan was not executed as planned," Almendras said.

"There is, however, enough power, only if we all cooperate and agree on do things a certain way although unfortunately, it will result in higher electricity prices for some," he said.

P-Noy opens Mindanao power summit today

By Jody Queroz and Carlo Aguilon
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY — President Aquino's role in the Mindanao Power Summit here today would be more than just ceremonial, as he was expected to approve short-term and long-term proposals for implementation by the government to solve the power shortage on the island.

Secretary Loreilhad Almendras, chair of the Mindanao Development Authority, said the President would also actively participate in the discussions during the summit, described as the "largest gathering of power industry stakeholders." About 350 people will be in attendance.

The summit was convened amid claims by National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP), the private company that distributes power to Mindanao's millions, that there has been a declining supply of electricity in Mindanao.

NGCP then resorted to forced power curtailments, which burdened consumers in some Mindanao areas with up to 20-hours of outages.

Power utilities have been trying to make the outages as short as possible were forced to buy additional power from private companies operating diesel-fired plants to compensate for the NGCP-imposed curtailments.

At a result, the cost of electricity for the power utilities' customers went up, by as much as half. For example, Davao del Sur Electric Cooperative previously charged about P8 per kilowatt hour. It now charges P16 per kWh.

Malacañang earlier said the government could not do anything to stop the rates increase because there was indeed a shortage of power supply.

But Aquino and many Mindanao officials would not run the line.

"The Power Summit accords us the opportunity to discuss the challenges in the Mindanao area and the specific short to long-term measures that stakeholders wanted acted on jointly by the government and the industry players," Aquino noted.

"This is being done for and by the Mindanaoans who have a direct stake in the Mindanao power issue and what needs to be done, and the President will be there to see to it that the proposed measures are thoroughly studied and the doubts are carried through," she added.

Solar resources

Rayen Mona Rep. Teddy Casiño said consensus on substantial issues and options should come out of the summit and not done deals.

He said the government should be able to solve the energy shortfall without jacking up electricity rates.

Casiño said one measure was for the government to take over management of private power barges "to ensure that power is being sold at cheaper bundled prices."

He said he also has seven solutions, Congress should approve House Bill No. 5605 or the proposed One Million Solar Roofs Act. The bill proposes incentives and financing facilities to encourage the use of solar energy by ordinary electricity consumers like residences, offices and small- to medium-business establishments.

"Solar resources are the most promising. This is because the average range of hours of sunshine in the Philippines is between 4.5 hours per day in July and August and 9.6 hours per day in April," Casiño said. "Here are 2,133 sunshine hours annually and approximately 5.8 sunlight hours for each day the whole year," Casiño said.

Epira amendments

In Kidapawan City, North Cotabato Gov. Emmylou "Lala" Taliño-Mendoza said she would present her proposals such as amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act or Epira law.

Mendoza, a former lawmaker, said the Epira Law provided the legal framework for the privatization of Napocor and the deregulation of the country's power industry.

She said this was also being used to privatize the government's remaining power assets.

"The power supply is not just a way of conditioning the minds of consumers that there is a power crisis, and such conditioning has something to do with the privatization of the remaining government-owned power utilities in Mindanao," she said.

ADVERTISEMENT

Marcos crony ordered to return $50-M loot

From page A1

the Republic proves that Disini used his influence and close relationship with President Marcos to obtain and amass large amounts of money, which he subsequently routed in various accounts," the court ruled in a decision issued on April 11.

Although a friend Marcos to have had a "personal financial interest" in the transaction, the Sandiganbayan said there was no evidence to show that either Marcos or his wife, Imelda, received any part of the commissions from the BNPP deal.

"Considering that there is no preponderant evidence that defendant Marcoses received any part of those commissions, the Court cannot pronounce any liability on their part," the Sandiganbayan said.

Pay-offs shared with dictator

The court also found no evidence to support several other allegations of the government, such as that Marcos ordered the massive and unlawful withdrawal of assets from the National Treasury, the Central Bank and other depository institutions; that Marcos and Disini embezzled government funds in total chaos for their own benefit; and that Disini acted as a dummy for the Marcoses in controlling several companies.

The decision relied on Civil Case 0033 to counter-claim with the BNPP that the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) filed in the Sandiganbayan in 1987, against Marcos, Imelda and Rodolfo Jacob, an officer of the Disini-owned Herdis Corp. Jacob remained mum witness in the civil case. The ruling was penned by Justice Rafael Lagos and concurred in by Justices Rodolfo Pamfilo and Efren de la Cruz.

The government charged Disini of having facilitated the award of the BNPP contract to Two US Dimi, the Stone & Ray engineering company and Westinghouse Electric Co., which allegedly paid Disini $1.6 million in bribes. The pay-offs allegedly were to companies owned by Marcos and Disini.

Marcos micromanaged deal

In its April 11 ruling, the Sandiganbayan said Disini acted for his own with Marcos to secure the BNPP contract for Westinghouse and Stone & Ray, and got commissions to set aside.

It said the testimony of several witnesses clearly showed that Disini and Marcos were close associates or relatives by affinity, and that Marcos agreed to have Disini act as the exclusive agent for the two US firms in the BNPP transaction.

It said Marcos' participation in the transaction was driven by his financial interest in the Iscochem deal.

"The Westinghouse contract was a very lucrative deal not to catch the attention of the President, and given Disini's special position in the Marcos circle of associates, it would not be stretching one's imagination too much to assume that they hoped to profit from the deal," the court said.

It also found "unusual" the level of attention that Marcos and Disini gave to the power plant contract, as well as their alertness to minute details and the substantial amount and of fees they reserved.

"And the only reason this court could think of behind the former President's level of intermingling the BNPP contract is a pursuit of financial interest," it added.

Still a free man

The court pronounced as witnesses Jacob, the president of Disini's Herdis Group, Herdis vice president Angelo Brandon and Westinghouse representative Jesus Vergara.

Vergara testified on how Disini's alter-ego in the BNPP project, as well as on the close ties of Disini and Marcos. Jacob and Brandon both testified on the close personal relationship between Marcos and Disini.

According to state prosecutor, Disini's alter-ego in the chairman's golfing buddy was married to the Marcos family doctor, Herminia Gavidia, a cousin of Imelda.

Disini also has two pending criminal cases (corruption of public officials and violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act).

In 1995, Judge Ombudsman Antonio Socorro Ocampo dismissed the charges against Disini for lack of factual and legal basis.

The PCGG elevated the case to the Supreme Court, which in 2000 ordered the filing of graft and bribery charges against Disini.

He was ordered arrested by the Sandiganbayan in 2006 but has paid a bail of P94,000 and remains free since. He is said to be residing in Austria where he is rumored to have bought a villa and a castle.

Worst debt nightmare

The nuclear power plant that is hailed has never been operated and remains to be the country's worst debt nightmare.

Construction of the 620-megawatt nuclear power plant which sits on a 357 hectare government reservation in Napot Point in Morong, Bataan, began in 1975 and was completed in 1984 at the inflated cost of $2.3 billion, nearly four times the initial bid of $600 million.

In April 1986, President Corazon Aquino mothballed the BNPP because of safety concerns, amid claims that the plant was built on an earthquake fault.

In 1988, the Aquino government filed a suit in the US against Westinghouse and Stone & Ray for bribery, fraud and racketeering and sought the return of the money paid to them for the construction of the power plant. In May 1993, a New Jersey court acquitted Westinghouse and Stone & Ray.

$180-M settlement

In 1995, the Ramos government signed a $100-million settlement with Westinghouse.

But Filipino taxpayers were still left with the burden of paying for the loans incurred for the BNPP project, whose interest payments alone amounted to $500,000 a day, as officials have claimed.

It was only in 2007 that the Philippines fully paid up the country's BNPP obligations totaling $2.8 billion.

MORALITY IN AUSTRIA. Herminia Gavidi, who brokered the $600-million Bataan Nuclear Power Plant deal in 1974, reportedly bought a castle with matching title in Austria. INQUIRER PHOTOS

Landero, inc'l softball Hall of Famer; 64

SYDNEY—"Ben" Landero, an International Softball Federation Hall of Famer who brought the 1972 and 1980 Filipino women's softball champ pitching to this country, died after a cardiac arrest on April 4. He was 64. The former mentor who represented the country in the 1994 World Shooting Championships in Antalya in Turkey is survived by his wife, Lorna, and their children Ben Jr., Ma. Theresa Lara, Ma. Victoria Lara, Ma. Angelica Lara and Ma. Cristina Lara. Landero's remains are at the family residence at 297 Acacia Street, Cremorne, Mukati. —Marc Anthony Reyes

Editor Teddyboy S. Molondres
Associate Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

SPORTS

Texters flex muscles, whip hapless Energy

TALK 'N TEXT'S Ryan Reyes (left) tries to drive past Barangay Ginebra's Mick Pennisi in their semifinal showdown.

By Marc Nery R. Castillo

ANTIPOLO—The real Talk 'N Text team—sharp, unforgiving and refusing to be baffled, just as Tuesday's coach Jason Harold Ivanovic—showed up last night and restored order to this wild affair of the PBA Commissioner's Cup's Final Four.

The Tropang Texters played with a lot more heart, a lot more physicality, and dominated the Energy practically all night to score a 121-98 triumph that squared their best-of-five series after two games at the Ynares Center here.

Talk 'N Text just rode out a hot first quarter by Barako Bull import Gabriel Freeman before pulling on the shutes, zooming in a 10-point lead at halftime and playing with complete control the rest of the way to regain momentum in the series.

Kelly Williams was the epitome of the heart that the Texters showed, shooting 9-of-13 when he could have stood to contribute 12 points, eight rebounds and three blocks despite a fractured cheekbone.

And then there's Ryan Reyes, who put an end to Freeman's rampage from the second quarter on on the rest of the squad was fluid-of, routinely allowing the Texters to deal the finishing grace of their seven losses in the tournament.

"I don't know if it is still physically possible for the next game, but it's going to be more physical," Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes said. "Like I told the players, we have to fight, if literally as hell. We can't allow them to bully us."

Talk 'N Text was also up from the team that took a sound beating in the series opener on Tuesday, losing 14 triples last night compared to just six in Game 1.

"Last game we were completely blown out," coach Reyes continued. "They drew first blood, we made adjustments. We have to be prepared for the adjustments that they will make for the next game."

Donald Harvey, an NBA veteran with the moves, rebounded from a nine-point Game 1 effort with 24, completely outclassing Freeman and matching all defenders thrown at him.

Rainiel De Ocampo contributed 18 and Larry Fonacier drilled in 14 and together with Williams, were part of six locals that scored 10 or more.

After shooting 33 points in the first period and carrying the Energy to several eight-point leads in the first quarter, Freemann was good for only five the rest of the way.

The scores:

TALK 'N TEXT (121)—Harvey 24, De Ocampo 18, Fonacier 14, Reyes 13, Williams 13, Castro 10, Dillinger 8, Lanete 8, Hamonic 7, Ilagan 5, Mercado 0, Aguilar 0, Mallari 0, Lee 0

BARANGAY NG— Freeman 33, Alolo 19, Yeo 16, Ildefonso 15, Pennisi 12, Ahanmisi 3, Wilson 0, Ferrer 0, Cabagnot 0, Cruz 0, Hontiveros 0

Quarters: 26-33, 51-41, 80-61, 121-98

Pug Suarez blows Olympic bid

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A SHOCKING blow.

That's what Philippine amateur boxing took on the chin yesterday after Charly Suarez, its strongest contender for a qualification to the London Summer Games, yielded to Liu Qiang of China, 13-10, Thursday in the sport's Asian Olympic Qualifying meet in Astana, Kazakhstan.

In an effort to catch up on points with his foe, the 22-year-old from Davao City unleashed a barrage of punches to the face of Liu—who was given a mandatory eight-count with just 22 seconds left in the lightweight bout—to no avail.

By that time, Liu was already way ahead after having led, 9-4, after the first two rounds.

The referee-less fiasco blindsided the team of the rather shy Chinese, who was attended to by no physicians.

With Suarez's defeat, the Philippines left Astana empty handed. Four other Filipinos—Boy Saludar, Dennis Galvez, Wilfredo Lopez and Josgin Lalata—suffered losses in the preliminaries.

Boxing, which produced the country's only two Olympic silver medals through Anthony Villanueva in the 1964 Tokyo Games and Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco in the 1996 Atlanta Games, will now pin its hopes in the men's division only on light flyweight Mark Anthony Barriga.

Barriga made it to London through a qualification quilt. He lost his quarterfinal match in the reversal gold medalist in last year's World Championships.

The country will bat a chance to send athletes to fighting in the Olympics through women's boxing, which will have its own qualifying in China next month.

Suarez, the two-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, fought tenaciously in the first round, very of Liu's long reach. He engaged the Chinese in the middle of the ring but conceded up taking a 5-1 lead.

The Filipino next tried to get inside in the second round but Liu fended him off with jabs.

Suarez was also worried for low blows.

CHARLY Suarez's late rally ends up short.

Pacquiao may clash with Marquez a fourth time

By Ray Loarca

A FOURTH installment of the heralded Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez fare-off is in the offing. And, chances are, it will no longer be staged in Las Vegas but in Marquez's turf—Mexico City.

Bernardo Beltran, of Zenler Promotions, which manages Marquez, told Miguel Rivera of Boxingbeat.com Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) that his group has initiated discussions with Pacquiao's representatives and those from the Top Rank.

"Having the fight in Mexico is not being viewed as a bad thing," said Beltran. "There are many benefits to having the Pacquiao fight reach there."

Beltran is said to be so convinced with Pacquiao-Marquez IV that he has vowed to bring the showdown—projected to be held in November—to the sparkling new Arena Monterrey.

The stadium boasts has a maximum capacity of 21,500 although it can only accommodate 16,500 when reconfigured for a boxing event.

In their first fight in 2004, Marquez survived three first-round knockdowns to salvage a draw with Pacquiao, who won the return bout in 2008 by split decision on the strength of a third-round knockdown.

Before Nov. 24, however, Pacquiao rematched over Marquez by majority decision.

Beltran believes that Mexico, the boxing fans, and Marquez deserve the final battle with Pacquiao, who is well-loved in the country despite his ring ur "Mexican nemesis."

Coast clear for Blackwater's semis assault

By Cedrik P. Tupas

ANTIPOLO—Blackwater survived a late Big Chill fightback to come away with a pulsating 64-61 victory yesterday and gain sole ownership here in the PBA D-League Foundation Cup at the Ynares Center.

Dominant in the first three quarters, the Elite almost squandered a 19-point lead in the face of the Supercharged Boys rally in the final period before regrouping to 4-1.

Earlier, Cebuanas Lasallite Imeneo on a blistering start in pummel Cagayan Rising Suns, 82-55, for its third win in four outings.

The Grans turned to Jason Canada early on and the Adamson swingman struck for all his 16 points in the first quarter as help Cebuanas establish control.

It was a resounding response for the Grans, who absorbed a 62-86 defeat in Big Chill last week.

Back-up center Raymond Almazan dished out his best game of the conference, finishing with 14 points that went with four blocks as the Grans prevailed in a highly physical duel that saw the ejection of Grans guard Raymond Maravenotis for a flagrant foul on James Gamez and a technical with seven minutes remaining.

The Supercharged Boys pulled within 61-62 on Mike Villahermosa's layup, but the Big Chill rookie guard missed a potential game-tying triple in the dwindling seconds, allowing the Elite to escape with the victory.

AJ Mandani's run-free dagger off a lead from Kevin Jensen with five seconds left gave the Superchargers enough cushion heading into Big Chill's last play.

The win was Blackwater's third straight and boosted its chances of making an outright semifinal berth.

It was the Superchargers' first defeat in four games under new coach Robert Sison.

The Elite looked headed for a romp when they took a 36-17 lead on Paul Zamora's triple at the start of the fourth quarter. But Keith Jensen, Mac Steverdillo and Ilden Mallari joined forces to turn the game around for the Superchargers.

"We got a good jump on them early and our message to [add a second-title foul]," said Elite coach Leo Isaac.

WEEKEND MATCHES
UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI | FREE ADMISSION
SATURDAY
PASIGUEÑO VS LOYOLA HERALCO (MARIKI)
BASE VS PHIL. ARMY FATZ & MACCOL
2:00 PM
4:00 PM + UMAK
SUNDAY
8:00 AM + CLOSUL VS PHIL. NAVY RED JUICE
8:00 AM + STALLION GILLIGANS VS HOMASH ELECTRO MANILA
8:00 AM + PHIL. AIR FORCE PHOENIX VS GREEN ARCHERS UNITED

Abdon, Ardina grab match play top seeds

By Mwaeng N. Castillo

TRACE MARTINEZ, Cavite—Jik-Jik Abdon drew the lightest assignment in the first round of the match play stages of the Philippine Amateur Closed championship after firing a two-under-par 70 yesterday to top classification at Starwood Hills here.

The deliberate-playing Abdon garnered eleven free birdies in a low round for top seeding and will clash with the lightly-regarded Mel Cubillo-one at Orchis Ardina was the women's No. 1 after a second straight 78.

Cubillo struggled for the second straight day and returned an 82 for a 160 total, enough to book the 16th and last berth in the match play of the event advancing as the third leg of the Globe-NGAP series.

Counting his opening 74, 40-ish, a veteran campaigner looking for a breakthrough win, tallied 144 for the 36-hole distinction home in the event backed by Pascale House, Golf Depot, Sunrise, Titleist, Empire Sports, Midwest Golf and Mayfield Express.

Jenny Acosta, the first round leader, fumbled with an 77 and settled for No. 2 and a duel with Dea Bell, the 15th seed who shrugged an 82 for 163 but won out in the countback over Cubillo.

Stephanie Arevalo, a last use of 16th Mario, was No. 3 at 152 after a 76 and will play it out with Rhodora Duenguelo, even as Glo Gandinoso placed fourth at 153 after a 73 and will take on Ramie Rojas, who carded a 77 for a 164.

Mirjam Bontoyan submitted a 75 for a 154 total and a duel with Chapa Dalag, who had a 163 after an 80. Other matches pit Joey Hayres (95-158) against Andrea Saldana (80-163), Lawrence Gobaton (94-159) against Noel Langamin (78-162), and Rene Munoz (79-158) against Justin Quidachay (75-161).

Jonathon Bumagsiel also fired a 76 and tied second to Ardina at 166. She is pitted against No. 7 Jan Pancadas, who fired a 173 after an 80.

Jaypee Aquio, the former Philippine Ladies amateur champion, had a 74 after an 80 and finished second 80 for a 159 to take No. 3 seed to match with No. 6 Apple Padolina, who had a 164 after an 82.

Lourdyan Guingab, veteran of the Philippine Amateur Open, finished fourth with a 161 after a 74 and will slug it out with Rainier Roque, who made an 82 for a 166.

ARDINA: Another 78

Caligdong heroics lift Air Force to 5th spot

By Cedrik P. Tupas

CHERRY Caligdong found the back of the net for the first time since his return from injury as he propelled defending champion Air Force Hyundai to a 2-0 blanking of Pasargad in the United Football League at the University of Makati.

In his debut game back from a month-long layoff, the diminutive winger again delivered with two late goals, pushing Air Force to fifth spot in the table with 11 points.

The game seemed headed for a scoreless draw as both teams likely eyes drawn, before Caligdong struck from the right in the 87th minute.

The national team skipper doubled his tally in the third minute of stoppage time, following up on his shot that bounced off the post to cap a swift counter-attacking move.

"It took awhile for me to adjust but the win is important as it keeps us in contention," said Air Force coach Edsel Benavente, whose squad came into the game buoyed by a 3-2 draw against heavyweight rival Mendiola.

"We have a long way to go, but at least we are now able to reassert some of the confidence we lost because of our poor start this season."

Goalkeeper Tata Mercado also made a solid contribution for Air Force, stopping a 30th minute penalty from Hamed Hajimohd after defender Mardie Dacuan fouled Dibi Pascual inside the box.

HANGTIME: Forward Derrick Williams (left) blocks a shot by Denver center Joffrey McDee. Williams and McDee were part of a group of NBA players led by Kobe Bryant that played in Manila last year.

Paul rescues LA Clippers

Buries basket that turns back Oklahoma City Thunder

OKLAHOMA CITY—A Chris Paul layup with 0.8 seconds left gave Los Angeles a 103-101 win over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Wednesday, keeping the Clippers in position for home-court advantage in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

Paul scored 21 points and got past Thunder defensive specialist Thabo Sefolosha for the retrieval basket, squeezing the ball onto the rim to put LA ahead.

The Thunder's Kevin Durant missed a three-point attempt that could have won it, hitting the back rim on a shot from the left wing.

Durant led Oklahoma City with 32 points.

Blake Griffin added 16 points for the Clippers.

Paul scored 24 of his total in a dominant second half.

"My instinct that to keep our playoff run alive," Paul told reporters after the Clippers (35-31) snaped half a game in front of Memphis for fourth in the West.

"My heaven's locked up a spot in the playoffs yet but that's what we're looking to do."

The Thunder (41-16) stayed one game clear at the top of the Western Conference with closing San Antonio also Sunday.

The Spurs suffered a surprising 99-84 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers, playing without the injured Kobe Bryant, as Andrew Bynum shone in the absence of the team's top gun.

The Lakers seven-footer grabbed 20 rebounds to become the first player to reach the total since Minnesota's Kevin Love achieved the feat in 2010. Bynum also added 16 points.

In Boston, Paul Pierce overcame a miserable shooting game with a key jumper to overtime that gave the Celtics an 88-86 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Rajon Rondo finished with a triple-double with 10 assists, 10 points and 20 rebounds.

In Memphis, Rudy Gay scored a season-high 33 points as the Grizzlies whipped the Phoenix Suns, 104-92, for their fourth straight victory. AP, Reuters

Ateneo, San Beda kick off FilOil bid tomorrow

By Cedrik P. Tupas

ATENEO and San Beda hope to win the 2012 FIDM Flying V Pre-Season Hoops Cup starting tomorrow as a launching pad for their title campaign in the Filoil Flying V Premier Volleyball Tournament in the Spring.

The Eagles and Lions figured in an exciting finals series last year in the pre-season tournament won by Ateneo, before they ruled their respective leagues.

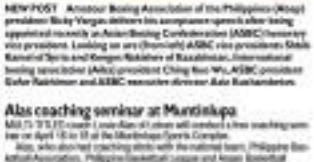
Ateneo kicks off its campaign against Letran at 2 p.m. before San Beda clashes with La Salle. Jose Rizal U and National U square off in the last game at 6 p.m.

Expected to grace the opening-day games are Philippine Sports Commission chair Ricardo Garcia, Rep. Pia Cayetano and San Juan Mayor Guia Gomez.

Bevin Aina and Mark Cruz will carry the fight for the Eagles along with improving big men Jonathan Hrbinek and Raymond Almazan.

With starters Jake Durtual and Borey Ith-Nan still in the squad, the Red Lions, now coached by Fonzie Magsaysay, are still a force to reckon with in the tournament held in cooperation with Total Philo Corp. with major sponsors Ilo Mineral, RCG, TMS Mktg Agencies Inc., Bayo, Mobay, Nature's Spring and Dayuni and minor sponsors Bagong Club Bistro, Union Bank and Bacchus.

Tickets are available at SM Tickets at 4702222 or at the Arena gate.



NEW POST: Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (ABAP) president Ricky Vargas delivers his acceptance speech after being appointed recently as Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC) honorary vice president. Looking on are (from left) ASBC vice presidents Chito Kairut of Syria and Kengen Ralshiev of Kazakhstan, international boxing federation (AIBA) president Ching Kuo Wu, ASBC president Gafur Rakhimov and ASBC executive director Aziz Kashanderov.

Alas coaching seminar at Muntinlupa

MULTI-TITLED coach Louie Alas will conduct a free coaching seminar on April 15 to 18 at the Muntinlupa Sports Complex.

Alas, who also had coaching stints with the national team, Philippine Basketball Association, Philippine Basketball League and Asian Basketball League, is conducting the clinic under the sponsorship of Muntinlupa Mayor Aldrin San Pedro and sports coordinator Erick Ramirez. The clinic will be held from 8-11 a.m. For inquiries, call (0917) 7554870.

RGBA's 2012 Bulilang-Bulilang set at Texas cockpit

THE NATIONAL Federation of Gamefowl Breeders will stage the PHP1-million 2012 Bulilang-Bulilang Derby starting tomorrow until May 5 in various venues.

The All-Filipino Pinoy Gamefowl Breeders Association, among the top entry-contributors in the record-breaking Balintawak 2011 National Sing Derby has scheduled its next 4-fighting eliminations on April 19 and 28 at the Texas Cockpit. Entry fee is PHP3,000 and the minimum bet PHP1,000.

Submission of weights (1.8 to 2.2 kg) is set one day before derby day.

Two special eliminations are scheduled on Apr. 25, 26 and 30 at the Pasay Square Garden.

'Sagupaan' elims fires off at Pasay cockpit today

TOP gamefowl breeders from the provinces can arrive today at the recently-opened the P15.1-million Sagupaan National in Cuta Derby of the Pasay City Cockpit.

More than 600 fights are in today's schedule where members of the influential Luzon Gamefowls Breeders Association (LGBA) will field entries, according to LGBA president Boyet Plaza.

Among those flying are Plaza, Edwin Angeles, Gerry Cuyuboy, 2012 Mineral Stamina King champ Larry Wenceslao, 2011 Breeder of the Year Allan Chua, Jerry Ramos, Adrian Santos, Rhoy Gonzales, Pido Jaramillo, Pepeng Cojangco, Ray Diaz, Nilado Angeles, Jun Sevilla and Romy Yu.

JUNIOR CHESS

UST stars share lead

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas' Christine Joyce Lua and Lorraine Batiancila finished tied for first in a rush to bag the Streetlight in the second round of the 2012 National Juniors Chess championships in Kalibo, Aklan.

Lua stunned top seed White Jan Jocelyn Pesuda of De La Salle in three-fire bout with Batiancila, who bested fourth seed Annamichin Glo Benitez, and four others with two points each.

Completing the leader board are Jean Kimm Barajuan of Adamson, Marie Antoinette Van Diego of Cavite, Gladys Stamers of FEU and Judith Pineda of De La Salle.

Second seed IWFM Cherry Ann Mejia of De La Salle University was held to a draw by 10th seed Adelaide Joy Lim of Bacolod and settled for 1.5 points.

Bacolod's Joel Pimentel and senior others pace the Open first seat with two points each. Pimentel beat Reno Robert Cecil of La Salle to stop Ma Dominique Lagula, Rhon Angelo Medina, IWFM Janelle Mae Frayna, Paul Robert Evangelista, Jose Castro and Jade Emil Pineda of UST.

Aguinaldo golfers lead Interclub tilt at Eagle

AGUINALDO dominated the first round action by taking the lead in all three divisions of the ICTSI Inaugural Interclub golf tournament at the Solaire course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Aguinaldo teams took the first two positions in Division 1, shared the top spot with Valley in Division 2 and held a 1-2 point spread in Division 3.

Arthur Gamido and Rhoel Pagdenganan fired 35 points each while Ado Mata added 37 for a 131 that gave Aguinaldo 1 a fulsome one-point lead over Aguinaldo 2.

The April trio of Rodolfo Arevalo (36), Willie Sison (40) and Phil Phil Gan (41) matched the 142 total posted by Valley's Adder Chan (34), Carl Corpus (49) and Lester Lagunzo (42).

Sonz Granada (47), Leandro Ingan (38) and Arturo Rondez (37) completed the big day for Aguinaldo-3 with a 117 total, far ahead of Navy's 186.

Bulls need Rose in the playoffs

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sev Sarmenta

LEST we forget, the current NBA season is a truncated one, shorter by 16 games because of the pre-season haggling over basketball-related income. Before you know it, the teams have already played their 66 games and you're right into the playoffs.

Let's first take a look at the Eastern Conference landscape that has had explosive games of late, happening almost every day.

The Chicago Bulls are riding on the crest of their resurgence as a franchise with a young and scrappy collection of players who have no fear and irreverence of their star brethren. It is of course reigning MVP Derrick Rose but they are trying to hold the fort while Rose is recuperating from every sort of injuries that have bothered him throughout the season.

Rose has already missed 23 games because of his health concerns. Recently, he tried to return to the line-up against the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden. Rose attempted to go full throttle but injured his ankle to add to his list of injuries, most prominent of which is a groin pain.

However, because of a cupful of cojones every player knows his role dearly, the Bulls have still won 16 of the 23 games Rose missed. In a return bout with the Knicks in the eighth and final spot. The race to the last spot is always interesting to watch not because we want to celebrate an eighth place finish. It simply means our team will play to the great unwashed one will miss the cut.

The four could take on Philadelphia and again make short work of the 76ers like last year. Indiana could face Orlando and that young Pacer team could catch the Magic off guard while Dwight Howard and company try to mend their broken ties. Howard of course had seemed to be traded during the season.

The league is intrigued by the resurgence of the Boston Celtics as a playoff contender. The most successful NBA franchise in history is getting numerous mileage from a big three—Ray Allen, Rod Pierce and Kevin Garnett—who are playing with pride and like at their senior NBA ages. The Celtics have won eight of their last 10 and could meet the hungry Atlanta Hawks in the first round.

The playoffs are that time when teams need their biggest stars to make major contributions. Games are more often than not decided by intangibles like maturity and experience and the huge talent inputs of the superstars. The Bulls cannot go far in the playoffs with a team by any other name than Derrick.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

OVER 440 persons jailed nationwide are aged 17 years old as of February this year, according to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. Of this number, nearly 40 are from the National Capital Region.
Zahari Gonzaga, Inquirer Research

3 dead, 15 injured in mishap on NLEx

By Kristine Felisse Mangunay

THREE people were killed while 15 others were injured when a passenger bus rear-ended a 16-wheel truck before it slammed into a wall on the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) yesterday morning.

Traffic investigator PO3 Nicanor Bartolome identified the fatalities as Williams Cabrac, 34, the driver of a Dennis Transport bus; Jennifer Arnin, 24, the bus conductor; and Agudor Simon, 48, one of the passengers.

The accident happened at 4:45 a.m. on the southbound lane of the expressway near the Tarlac-Pangasinan overpass in Gen. T. de Leon, Valenzuela City.

According to Bartolome, the bus which was traveling at a fast clip bumped into the back of the truck which was carrying sand.

The bus then spun out of control before it hit the fence on the roadside, some 30 meters away from the site of the impact, he added.

Elmer Gomez, the driver of the forwarding Hino truck owned by Alexander Salvado, said they were on their way to Pandacan City from Pangasinan province.

The Cubao, Quezon City-bound passenger bus, on the other hand, had come from Bicol province.

Bartolome said they were still trying to determine if the bus' brakes had failed although he added that it was possible that Cabrac did not immediately see the truck in front of his vehicle because of the steep elevation in that portion of the expressway.

Gomez told investigators that just before the accident, he was cruising at only 60 kilometers per hour. He told the bus boy that after the passenger bus hit the back of his truck, it pushed the vehicle forward and he nearly hit the 10-wheel truck in front of him.

Fortunately, he managed to swerve to the right to avoid a collision, he added.

Gomez and his two truck helpers were unhurt although they complained of neck pains.

Both the driver and conductor of the Genesis bus, however, died on the spot after they were thrown out of said smaller bus vehicle due to the impact.

The lone passenger who died, on the other hand, passed away after he suffered a concussion, Inspector Jorge Ernesto de Guzman, chief of Valenzuela City's Traffic Enforcement Unit, told the Inquirer.

Police identified the injured as Arnaldo Empano, 40; Bon-bon Dacula, 26; Jeanalen Gomez, 23; Emmanuel Singlan, 34; Walter Nacional, 36; Gerald Reyes, 28; Anthony Gamoda, 24; Federico Dalson, 60; Antonio Garcilla, 55; Jerald Alamo, 21; Maria Rasara, 40; Lilian Militante, 38; Wilfredo Ibalia, 37; Antonio Baraet Jr., 43; and Eleanor Mercado, 22.

The accident left traffic snarled on the NLEx for hours after many of the sand from the truck spilled onto the road. Traffic finally normalized at around noon.

De Guzman told the Inquirer that charges of reckless imprudence resulting in three counts of homicide and 15 counts of physical injuries would be filed against the truck driver.

He said that this was in line with standard operating procedures, considering the number of fatalities in the accident.

The truck driver, however, insisted that he did not do anything wrong.

"I wasn't going fast," Gomez, a truck driver for the past 20 years, told the Inquirer.

He said that it never crossed his mind to run away since he knew that he was not at fault.

YES, WE ALSO HAVE STAR APPLES

Aside from sweet corn, sidewalk vendors on Katipunan Road in Quezon City now also sell 'calmbo' or star apples.
INQUIRER.NET PHOTO

Road repairs set this weekend

By Philip C. Tubeza

PARTS of Echo and other busy thoroughfares will be closed to traffic from 10 p.m. today until 6 a.m. on Monday to pave the way for road repairs.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) advised motorists to take alternate routes, saying it was taking advantage of the fair weather to complete its road maintenance projects in the National Capital Region before the opening of classes and the start of the rainy season.

The thoroughfares to be repaired are:

- Aurora Boulevard (southbound) from Pasay City;
- South Superhighway (southbound) from Zobel Roxas Street in Quezon Avenue;
- Osmeña Avenue (northbound) from Zobel Roxas Street in Quirino Avenue;
- Echo (northbound and southbound) in Bonifacio Global City;
- C-5 Road (southbound) in Taguig City;
- Roxas Magsaysay Boulevard in Sampaloc, Manila, from Nicanor to Nagtahan;
- N. H. Lacson Street in Sampaloc, Manila, from Remedios to Ma. Clara (both sides);
- Magsaysay Flyover Service Road from R. Magsaysay Boulevard to Dapitan Street;
- Espeña Boulevard in Sampaloc, Manila, from Canlubang to Welcome Rotonda;
- Phoenix Viaduct in Barrio Makati Diversion, Channel and Edsa (center lane);
- Quezon Metrobank in Mandaluyong City;
- Aurora Boulevard (eastbound) from Antonio to F. Castillo Street (center lane);
- Echo, Quezon City (northbound) going to Cubao area, 2nd lane from sidewalk between Cubao 2 and 2 of Camp Aguinaldo;
- Real Avenue, Roxas between Ortiz and 7th Avenue;

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CRIMSON

Shoot-to-kill order out vs 2 rogue cops

By Jaymee T. Gamil

MANILA (“Bely Hari”) is once again taking “drastic action” against lawmen accused of crimes.

In a press conference yesterday, Mayor Alfredo Lim issued shoot-to-kill orders against two high-ranking policemen who were into hiding after they were accused of committing murder during Holy Week.

Lim, however, clarified that the shoot-to-kill order would apply only should the police men looking for the two encounter “armed resistance.”

“Their tendency would be to shoot. Our law enforcers need to be careful. Dibondi them be-

cause I sign of danger, they need to protect the family,” he said.

“[The suspects’ actions] constitute or the evasion of the police force. Now even dedicated officers and policemen get blasted,” Lim lamented, adding, “We need to take drastic action.”

PO3 Pulgencio Gideon, a member of the National Capital Region Police Office, is being sought for shooting and killing his neighbor, Basilio Serrano, 63, on April 5 in Tondo, Manila.

On the other hand, PO2 Rommel Fortuno, who used to be with the Caloocan police before he was dismissed from the service, reportedly shot dead policeman Ben Tumpag on Black Saturday also in Tondo.

The two were described as armed, trigger happy and dangerous.

Bidoco is already facing dismissal from the service over a case of indiscriminate firing during a Christmas party in his neighborhood last year.

The sister of the man he shot said that the policeman had a reputation among their neighborhood of being a drug user.

Fortuno, on the hand, was dismissed over car theft charges years ago.

He also faces another case in connection with the killing of another lawman who he believed was having an affair with his former girlfriend.

SHOOT-TO-KILL: police have been issued against these two “armed, dangerous and trigger-happy” lawmen—PO2 Fulgencio Gideon (left) and ex-PO3 Rommel Fortuno—for murder. MARK LEONARDO

Road repairs

From page A12

- Aurora Avenue (both bound) and southbound) exceed lane (from FairLane to Carnarvon);
- Mindanao Avenue (northbound) second lane (from Road 20 to 6th Square);
- Edsa, Quezon City (southbound), third lane (from Roosevelt to West Avenue); and
- M. H. del Pilar Street in Malabon City.

Nursery to grow 1.5M trees yearly for Metro

By Kristine L. Alave

THE CONCRETE jungle that is Metro Manila will soon have a supply of seedlings for its greening program aimed at curbing pollution and giving citizens a respite from the heat.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) yesterday started constructing a model nursery in Tagaig City. The P32.5-million facility is located on a 1.5-hectare lot at the DOST compound.

It will be capable of growing 1.5 million seedlings every year using tissue culture and rooting propagation.

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje noted that fifteen Manila’s plant needs are different from its provinces.

The DOST facility will grow endemic forestry species, fruit and flowering trees and ornamental plants.

Director Nilo Tamayo of DOST-National Capital Region said fifteen Manila’s tree would aid in reducing in the metropolis air pollution which has become unbearable lately.

According to the DENR, there was a decline in the level of total suspended particulates (TSP) in Metro Manila in the past years. From an average of 500 micrograms per normal cubic meter (ug/Ncm) at the end of the second quarter of 2010, the air contaminants has gone down to 118 ug/Ncm as of the last quarter of 2011.

According to studies, 80 percent of the pollution in the city comes from vehicles. Health and environment experts said the dirty city air has led to a high incidence of respiratory diseases among Metro Manila residents.

Tamayo also noted that the greening of the city could reduce the “Albedo” effect in the metropolis which could translate into lower ambient temperature.

The Albedo effect is a climate science term that refers to the reflecting power of a surface. Urban centers, with their gray and white buildings and concrete roads, reflect a lot of heat from the sun, raising ambient temperature in the cities. Trees, trees, trees, Tamayo emphasized, can help reduce the reflection of the sun’s heat, producing a cooling effect.

Court asked to keep TV host’s wife away from him

By Julie M. Aurelio

A JUDGE has ordered the wife of comedian and “Eat Bulaga!” host Jose Manalo to answer a petition filed by the television show’s producer which seeks to bar her from approaching or calling her spouse.

Judge Luis Ulysses Manzores of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 228 directed Anna Lyn Manalo to file her reply within 10 days in a summons sent to her recep on April 10.

Should she fail to do so, the petition of the complainant—Television and Productions Exposition Inc. (TAPE) which produces the popular noontime TV show—for a temporary restraining order (TRO) may be granted by default.

Last month, TAPE filed a damage suit against Anna Lyn, a resident of Greenhills in San Juan City.

In a 12-page civil complaint, the producer asked that she be barred from approaching or even calling her husband who, TAPE claimed, she had been harassing since November last year.

Aside from a TRO and permanent injunction, TAPE asked the court to award it P300,000 in moral damages, P250,000 in moral damages and P100,000 in lawyer’s fees.

According to TAPE, Anna Lyn’s actions were disrupting its operations, particularly Eat Bulaga’s live broadcast.

It claimed that Jose had missed work due to emotional stress, harming its business interests.

The hearing on the petition for a TRO will be held at 2 p.m. in the morning when the producer is requested to present witnesses.

In February, Anna Lyn accused Manalo of violating Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-Violence against Women and Children Act before the San Juan City Prosecutor’s Office.

In her complaint, she claimed that the comedian had abandoned her and their seven children to live in the house he lived with another woman.

Anna Lyn also accused Manalo of emotional and verbal abuse, saying he had fashionable for in front of their children.

The allegations, however, were denied by Manalo.

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‘Shortage in LRT stored value tickets over in 2 weeks’

By Paolo G. Montecillo

IT COULD take up to two weeks before the Light Rail Transit (LRT) management is able to address a technical malfunction that has made stored value tickets unavailable to passengers of Line 1.

In a statement, the LRT Authority (LRTA) said it was doing all it could to ensure the availability of stored value tickets as soon as possible.

The agency said three of its six ticket vending vending equipment (TVM) at the stations had problems reading magnetic tickets for passengers, broke down last week.

“The parts required in repairing of the malfunctioned TVMs are supplied by Thales of Paris, its original equipment manufacturer. LRTA is now coordinating with the manufacturer to replace the parts as soon as possible,” it said yesterday.

LRTA corporate secretary Hernando Cabrera said the agency had prioritized the shipping of the needed equipment in order to make sure it arrives as soon as possible. “It should get here next week or the week after that,” he added.

He said that while the remaining TSMs could still be calibrated to issue stored value tickets, which are sold at P100 each, the LRTA chose to prioritize the selling of single-journey tickets.

“Not all passengers are willing or can afford to buy stored value tickets, that all passengers can afford single-journey tickets,” Cabrera said. “The LRTA is appealing to all passengers to bear with the inconveniency brought about by the temporary unavailability of stored value tickets.”

About half a million passengers take the 20-year-old LRT Line 1, which runs from Baclaran in Roosevelt every day, making it the country’s most used overhead commuter train line.

Globe Telecom Powers WWF Philippines’ Earth Hour 2012

Earth Hour founder Andy Ridley at the Earth Hour switch-off event in Aqua Town, Makati. His message was recorded and sent as Globe ran the switch-off ceremonies in Price Undisputed key in Cebu and WWF Horse-ex-Alaska in southeast

Globe Telecom partnered with the World Wildlife Fund Philippines (WWF) to power the Earth Hour Switch-off ceremony in Manila on March 31 at 7 p.m. Earth Hour founder Andy Ridley’s message was recorded and sent as Manila and Globe broadcasted the switch-off ceremonies in Pasay in Dapecolandia in Cebu and Bel Davao, ushering the country’s efforts in making this year’s Earth Hour celebration the biggest environmental celebration in recent years.

“Globe is aware of how the effects of climate change can impact society and businesses and we are committed to working with various environmental organizations such as WWF Philippines to help with community and environment conservation efforts,” said Ramon Nasol, Head of Globe Corporate Social Responsibility.

Globe Telecom has been participating in the Earth Hour campaign since 2009 by switching off lights in its major offices and billboards. This year, the leading telecom company went beyond the Earth Hour campaign by holding Climate Change and Earth Hour awareness sessions for employees prior to the Earth Hour Switch-off and turning off lights and its major offices billboards during the Switch-off. Through its flagship Corporate Social Responsibility program, Globe Bridging Communities, the company also holds other initiatives geared towards environment protection and sustainability which include the Bird Globe Conditions Challenge slated for May 5, an event launched in 2010 to raise consciousness and funds for the reforestation of the Caribbean Mountains.

As part of its commitment to environmental sustainability, the telecom company’s state-of-the-art mobile network and office technologies that are environment friendly, harnessing and integrating “green” solutions in its operations.

The modern Globe Telecom network and other technologies are free of power and television energy by using solar and wind-energy powered cellsites. This will boost energy savings through reduction in carbon footprint and lower power consumption, generating fuel savings of up to 60%.

Globe recently strengthened its environment preservation efforts by donating P1 million to the Philippine Red for Nature (PRN), an initiative of the WWF Philippines, designed to ensure the long-term growth of the organization’s early range of projects for preserving the country’s natural resources.

In 2011, 1,000 cities and municipalities in the Philippines switched their lights off as a sign of solidarity to help save the planet. WWF also launched their “I Will If You Will” digital campaign this year for people to go beyond the hour by empowering them to share a personal dare with the world by asking everyone what they are willing to do to save the planet.

TOUCHING BASE: Australian Governor-General Quentin Bryce, accompanied by Social Welfare Secretary Corazon “Dinky” Soliman, greets children living in a model relocation site at the PTI Compound in Tagaig City. Bryce was in the country to inspect projects being supported by the Australian government.

PUP dean loses jewelry, money to housemaid

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A DEAN of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) has over P1.3 million worth of antique jewelry and foreign currency allegedly to her housemaid in Manila.

Ma. Cecilia Mercado, 61, dean of the PUP College of Accountancy, filed a complaint last April 9 against Arlyn Marigondi, who allegedly stole several pieces of jewelry and foreign currency from her home on Bagumbayan Street in Bacood.

Insp. Jerome Labarda, of the Manila Police District (MPD) Theft and Robbery Section, said Mercado discovered the theft on Monday morning when she found that her locked cabinet containing valuables was left open. She noticed Marigondi’s gadget, and her husband were away on a trip.

The PUP official reported missing a diamond ring worth P500,000, a gold necklace worth P100,000, a pair of diamond earrings valued at P100,000, a bracelet worth P75,000 and several other assorted pieces of jewelry worth P300,000.

Foreign currency worth approximately P120,000 had also disappeared from the cabinet.

Mercado was told by another housemaid that the suspect had given her a necklace which she had recognized as among those missing. She then decided to look for Marigondi and had gone back to her hometown in Pangasinan.

“When she (Mercado) confronted the housemaid, Marigondi allegedly confessed to stealing the jewelry and even returned several pieces, but the others have not yet been recovered so far,” Labarda said.

With Marigondi’s confession, Mercado decided to have theft reported to the records of the Bergantin police.

On Wednesday, Mercado filed a charge of qualified theft against Marigondi at the Manila City Prosecutor’s Office.

Not so fast, QC cops tell drug store rob suspect

By Nancy C. Carvajal

IT WAS not his lucky day.

After waiting for hours under a scorching sun before he decided to strike, Alexander Fernandez, 32, succeeded in robbing a drug store of P12,000, only to be stopped by two policemen as he was making his getaway.

SPO3 Christopher Tompulis and PO3 Modesto Antivon had stopped on a gasoline station beside Generic Pharmacy along Barangay Holy Spirit, Commonwealth, to rest in Quezon City to see the exit route when they were tipped off about the robbery by a bystander.

Bystander’s tip

The two, who are assigned at the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation Unit, said the bystander they had just come from a follow up operation when they saw him a witness who told them that the drugstore had just been robbed.

“Based on the accounts of witnesses, the suspect had been standing a few meters from the target for hours under the heat of the sun, as if waiting for a ride,” Tompulis said.

“He must have been waiting for the right time to strike, but his timing was off because we happened to be in the area and on our way to the next scene,” the policeman said.

Fake handgun

Apart from the stolen cash amounting to P12,000, the policemen also recovered a fake 9mm handgun on Fernandez.

The suspect, who did not resist arrest, has been charged with robbery and is now detained in a police station still.

US sues Apple, publishers over e-book pricing

THE JUSTICE Department jumped directly into the fight over the future of digital books Wednesday ...and Amazon came out the winner.

In an action that could lower the price of e-books and chill the expanding market in Amazon's favor, the Justice Department slapped Apple and five of the largest book publishers with an antitrust lawsuit, charging that the companies colluded to raise the prices of e-books.

The suit, announcement, made in Washington by Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. and Sharis A. Pozen, the acting assistant attorney general of the Justice Department's antitrust division, capped a long investigation. The inquiry hinged on the question of whether publishers, at the urging of Steven P. Jobs, Apple's chief executive, agreed to adopt a new policy in 2010 that in essence coordinated the price of newly released e-books in the price offered in Apple's iBookstore—typically between $12.99 and $14.99.

At the time, Apple with its blockbuster iPad was trying to challenge Amazon's hold on the e-book market. Amazon, the online retail giant, had become a kind of Wal-Mart for the e-book business by lowering the price of most new and best-selling e-books to $9.99—a price meant to stimulate sales of its own e-reading device, the Kindle.

Publishers, looking for leverage against Amazon, saw Apple as their white knight. The Justice Department complaint, using language that would have been inspired by a feel-calling white-collar crime caper, describes how executives from the publishing companies met to discuss business matters "in private rooms for dinner in upscale Manhattan restaurants," tried to hide their communications by using non-written to "double-delete" e-mails, all the time complaining of Amazon's increasing influence over the e-book market.

Ultimately, the Justice Department charges, the publishers and Apple conspired to limit e-book price competition, increasing Amazon's e-book retail prices and causing "consumers to pay tens of millions of dollars more for e-books than they otherwise would have paid."

Three publishers that were so instigated, the Hachette Book Group, Simon & Schuster and HarperCollins, have already agreed to a settlement that will most likely terminate their pricing model. Macmillan and Penguin Group USA, which were also named in the suit, have not settled.

For consumers, the suit and settlement could ultimately pave the way for lower e-book prices. The publishers who have settled are required to end their e-book contracts with Apple and any other retailer with a "most favored nation clause," which says that no other retailer can sell e-books for a lower price. For two years, the publishers are also prohibited from restricting any retailer's ability to discount e-books.

For Amazon, whose share of the e-book market has eroded in favor of Apple's iBookstore, the settlement is a welcome development. Amazon's share of the e-book market has fallen to 60 percent from about 90 percent since 2010, the Justice Department action is a major victory over one of its top rivals. Apple, in anticipation of the announcement, Amazon already appeared poised to drop prices on e-books.

"This is a big win for Kindle owners, and we look forward to being allowed to lower prices on more Kindle books," Andrew Bredeson, a spokesperson for Amazon, said in a statement.

As Apple spokesperson declined to comment. Apple executives, for Barnes & Noble, whose popular Nook reader helped it capture about 25 percent of the market after the new pricing plan succeeded Amazon, said the retailer had no comment. Apple has about 10 percent of the market, several publishers said.

The Justice Department investigation has set off worries among readers who fear Amazon's huge influence over the market. Scott Turow, the president of the Authors Guild, warned in an open letter last month that the Justice Department was "on the verge of killing real competition in order to save the appearance of competition." He added, "The result be tragic for all of us who value books, and the culture they support."

According to the Justice Department lawsuit, the chief executives of the publishing companies met once every several months to "discuss confidential business and competitive matters, including Amazon's e-book retailing practices."

New York Times News Service

WorldBriefs

Romney looks to fill ticket; Republican "veepstakes" begins

ARLINGTON—With Mitt Romney now all but assured of winning the Republican nomination, he embarks on one of the critical aspects of the campaign: finding a running mate who can help him defeat President Barack Obama. Romney took a huge step toward securing the role of Republican vice presidential candidate Tuesday, as the chatter about who gets the nod from the former governor of Massachusetts has been fierce. But the pundits sought to discern the notion that he might shift to find a partner for the ticket—and after the controversy over Sarah Palin, who was John McCain's surprise running mate in their 2008 loss to Obama. "No [anyone]," Romney told Fox on Wednesday. "That's a process which has not begun yet, but will probably begin pretty soon." And so the "veepstakes" pattern shows: with Romney all but a running presumptive favorite, focus and prying over writing records and personal details in what is one of the most high-risk vetting processes endured by any politician. AFP

Iran to offer new proposals at nuclear talks with West

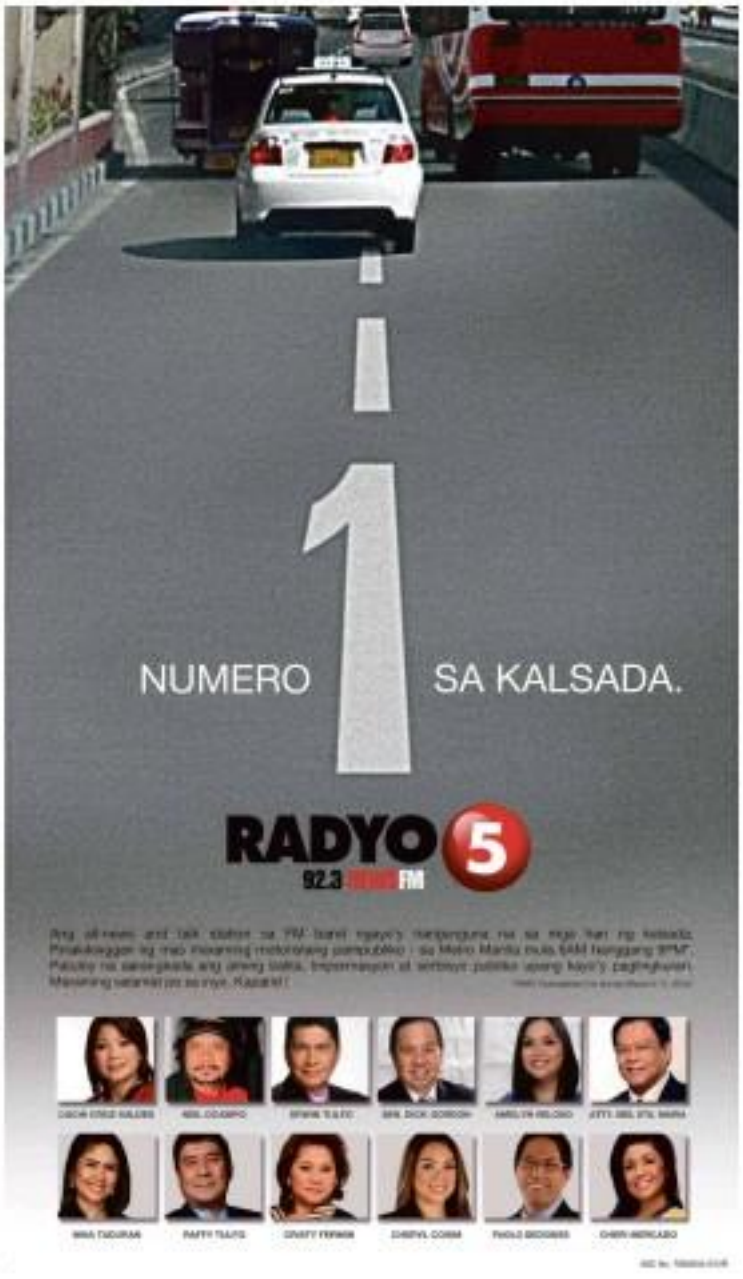
BAGHDAD—Iran will present new proposals at talks on Saturday aimed at easing concerns about its nuclear activity, state television said, but it was unclear if Tehran was willing to address the key issue of whether it is trying to develop atomic weapons. "Iran expert did not specify what Iran was set to offer and Iran enjoys independence and he doubted it would be enough for any quick lifting of sanctions on the Islamic Republic which the West suspects may be seeking nuclear weapons capability. "Iran's representatives will participate in the negotiations with open intentions and we hope that the six powers will also enter talks with constructive approaches," said the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Saeed Jalili, according to Iran's English-language Press TV on Wednesday. Previous rounds of talks with the P5+1 group—the five United Nations Security Council members, the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China, plus Germany—foundered in part because of Iran's refusal to negotiate on the scope of its uranium enrichment work. Jalili said Tehran expect proposals for trade and security cooperation. Reuters

South Korea ruling party retains majority in parliament

SEOUL—South Korea's ruling party has retained control of parliament in Wednesday's parliamentary election, seen as a key test of sentiment before the presidential vote in December, officials said. The conservative New Frontier Party won 152 seats in the 300-seat National Assembly, its more than the opposition Democratic United Party, which was hoped to score an easy victory in earlier opinion polls. "People made wise choices," President Lee Myung-Bak said in a statement. The ruling party had initially struggled to garner early parliamentary support, but appeared to be on a second successive presidential victory in eight months' time. It had 165 seats in the outgoing parliament against 89 for the DUP. "The DUP failed to fulfill public calls for punishing the... ruling party into reality. We apologize for disappointing supporters," DUP secretary general Park Sun-book told reporters, confidently conceding defeat. AFP

Dementia cases worldwide will triple by 2050, WHO says

GENEVA—Cases of dementia—and the heavy social and financial burdens associated with them—are set to soar in the coming decades as life expectancy and medical care improve in poorer countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) says. Some 35.6 million people were living with dementia in 2010, but numbers could to double to 65.7 million by 2030, the United Nations health agency said Wednesday. In 2050, it expects dementia cases to triple to 115.4 million. Dementia, a brain illness that affects memory, behavior and the ability to perform even common tasks, attacks mostly older people. About 7% percent of cases are believed to be caused by Alzheimer's. AP



The WORLD

Cfor Lorraine B. Gasco

Ceasefire in Syria appears to hold

DAMASCUS—A United Nations (UN)-backed ceasefire to end 13 months of bloodshed in Syria appeared to be holding after coming into force at daybreak Thursday, despite doubts about the regime's compliance with the peace plan.

Ghina welcomed Syria's decision to uphold a "comprehensive ceasefire" describing it as a step towards a political solution, as Russia called for more time for the peace plan to work.

And the opposition urged people to take advantage of the cease-fire and stage demonstrations against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

After breaking a commitment to pull back forces from population centers by Tuesday under the agreement brokered by former UN chief Kofi Annan, there were still no signs of a withdrawal, monitors said.

"The situation is calm in all regions," said Rami Abdel Rahman of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

A "few explosions" were heard in the town of Zabadani, just outside the capital, shortly after the ceasefire came into effect, Abdel Rahman told AFP in Beirut.

"There has not been any movement indicating a withdrawal of tanks," he added.

Activists in Damascus, Homs, and Hama reported that calm has prevailed since the ceasefire deadline.

The reports could not be verified due to the Damascus government's curbs on media.

"The test will be tomorrow, when demonstrators take to the streets" after the Muslim Friday prayers, a traditional high point for protests, said activist Wissam from Damascus.

Just hours before the deadline expired at 9:00 am (0300 GMT), the military unleashed a lethal offensive against protest centers, killing 25 civilians on Wednesday, including 13 in the rebel stronghold of Homs, said the Observatory.

That was the same day that Annan, serving as a peace envoy for the UN and the Arab League, said he received a letter from Syria promising to "cease all military fighting throughout Syrian territory as of 6:00 am." But the letter reserved the right "to respond proportionately to any attacks carried out by armed terrorist groups," a phrase Assad's government uses to describe opposition forces.

US President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed in a telephone call that the UN Security Council, which gave its blessing to Annan's plan, needed to "take more vigorous action" on Syria.

The United Nations estimates more than 9,000 people have been killed since March 2011 as Assad's forces crush the unrest in a series of uprisings against authoritarian leaders in the Arab world. —AFP

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

TAKING BACK SUNDAY PERFORMS TONIGHT AT SM CITY NORTH EDSA

MANILA, Philippines — 2012 is proving to be a great year for the Manila concert scene as Audio Mustachio and Keepunkin' Productions bring over one of the most celebrated international rock acts of the past decade, Taking Back Sunday.

Recently reuniting with the original line-up for an all-new, self-titled record and a 10th anniversary tour of their debut album Tell All Your Friends, the band will play live for the first time in Manila on April 13, 9 p.m. at the Skydome in SM City North EDSA.

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IN THIS ISSUE

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■ Gov't debt payment down 19% /B2-3

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Electronics, gold led export surge in Feb.

By Riza T. Olchondra

Value of outbound shipments came as a 'pleasant surprise,' says Neda

PHILIPPINE exports grew by a double-digit rate in February, from the 3-percent increase reported in January, with electronics and gold leading the charge, according to the National Statistics Office.

Export earnings in February this year rose by 14.6 percent to $4.431 billion from $3.865 billion recorded on the same month last year. On a monthly basis, outbound shipments increased by 7.4 percent from the $4.125 billion posted in January 2012, the NSO report showed.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said that exporters' performance during the month came as a "pleasant surprise," especially after the sector went through eight months of consecutive since May 2011 before it slightly recovered in January.

"Electronics also achieved double-digit growth, faster than we've expected. This bodes well for our GDP (gross domestic product) growth numbers," Neda assistant director-general for policy and planning Esperanza D'Alejara said in a text message.

Weak exports were a major drag to GDP growth in 2011.

It's too early to tell if exports are building momentum, but the modest growth gives "some glimmer of hope," Benjamin E. Diokno of the UP School of Economics said via email.

"Exports grew by 8.9 percent during the first two months of the year. The exports growth performance is much less than BSP's (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) 15 percent growth forecast, and closer to the exporters' revised forecast of 10 percent. But on the positive side, the two consecutive months of modest exports growth suggest that Philippine exports might

ELECTRONICS /B2

Asia's emerging economies told to be on their guard

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE PHILIPPINES and other emerging economies in the region should be on their guard against any volatility in foreign capital inflows that may arise from a mild recession in the euro zone, according to Asian Development Bank.

The probability of "large swings" in foreign capital flows should not be discounted, that is why emerging markets in Asia must have measures in place to protect their economies, ADB said.

The multilateral institution said it would be advisable for Asia's emerging markets to discuss strong, decisive common policies that they could implement to minimize risks brought on by huge fluctuations in foreign capital flows.

"If large swings of capital flows in the region reverse, various measures of capital flow management may be deployed, but they require regional cooperation on far reflection," ADB said in its report, "Asian Development Outlook 2012."

Foreign capital flows, especially portfolio funds, tend to turn volatile

ASIA'S /B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
April 12, 2012
42.720

(See stock market report on Page B3)

Share prices close up

THE STOCK market yesterday ended a four-day losing streak as investors took heart from an improvement in global risk appetite.

The make-or-break Philippine Stock Exchange index increased 20.34 points, or 0.58 percent, to finish at 3,548.78. All counters finished up, especially the holding firms subindex (+1.17 percent), which got a lead from JG Summit (+8.3 percent to P59.25).

WHAM /B2

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Tax liabilities of partnerships

Raoul Fortaleza

corporate accounting info

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has set its sight on a group of taxpayers that is reputed to use its knowledge of tax regulations to deftly reduce, if not avoid, the payment of taxes: the professional partnerships.

Several months ago, the BIR made a big splash about the filing of tax evasion charges against several medical practitioners who refused or failed to issue receipts to their paying patients.

The "charm campaign" prompted the Philippine Medical Association to seek a dialogue with the BIR for the conduct of an information drive among its members to advise them on proper compliance with their tax responsibilities.

Either the campaign was effective or the thought of being criminally prosecuted was unnerving, but a remarkable rise in compliance with the receipt requirements among medical professionals has been noted.

Why take the risk? The unassuming patient may be an undercover BIR agent.

Exemption

The BIR, through Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 1-2012, has severed notice that general professional partnerships are in its crosshairs.

These partnerships are "formed by persons for the sole purpose of exercising their common profession, no part of the income of which is derived from engaging in any trade or business."

This business arrangement is common among lawyers, accountants, architects and engineers. Their standard investment is their talent or skills, and they are generally paid based on the amount of time they spend in rendering to their client's needs and the end result of their work.

The circular cited Sec. 26 of the National Internal Revenue Code which states that such partnerships are not subject to income tax for income earned in their capacity.

However, the people who compose the partnership shall be liable for income tax in their separate and individual capacities. Meaning, as soon as the profits of the partnership are divided and remitted to them, they become liable for the income tax due for the money they received.

The partner concerned has to report "as gross income his distributive share, actually or constructively received, in the net income of the partnership."

The "constructively received" income refers to money and other things of value the partners may have received from the partnership during the year, such as, transportation allowance, representation expenses, vacation privileges and other similar perks.

Withholding

Consistent with the income tax exemption, the circular also stated that the rules on creditable withholding tax are not applicable to payments by third parties to the partnerships.

To illustrate, when a company engages the services of a musical band to perform before its customers during its anniversary, the company is obliged to deduct a certain percentage from the band's talent fee and remit it to the BIR as the band's creditable tax withholding.

In turn, the balance of the talent fee received by the band has to be reported by the latter in its income tax return for the applicable year.

Through the company's report on the creditable tax withheld, the BIR can later check whether or not the band accurately declared the talent fee it received from the company.

If the figures submitted by the company and the band do not match, it means either one or both failed to file BIR reports. Whoever submitted the false information could find itself in serious legal trouble.

Considering the speed by which the BIR's computers can sift and sort and cointegrate the figures stored in its database, catching the party who failed to submit the correct data or otherwise fudged the numbers is a breeze, including the filing of tax evasion charges.

Reporting

To criminal cases, verified testimony stands wealthy against documentary evidence. Besides, under existing rules, electronically generated documents, e.g., computer printouts etc, after compliance with the rules, are admissible as evidence.

The exemption of general professional partnerships from income tax and creditable tax withholding does not, however, mean that the BIR accepts as valid the honesty (sigh!) or perception (double sigh!) of the taxpayers who derive income from their participation in such business entities.

Lest its intended target may have forgotten, the circular reminded them that, as early as 1998, it has put in place a mechanism that creates a paper trail for the income they receive from their partnerships.

The BIR cited Revenue Regulations No. 2-98, as amended by Revenue Regulations No. 38-2002, which provide that income payments made to the partners who derive periodically or at the end of the taxable year, such as drawings, advances, sharings, allowances, stipends and the like, are subject to 1% percentage withholding if the payments for the current year exceed P720,000, and 10 percent if otherwise.

Two people could be held liable for violation of this rule... the partner who failed to accurately declare, report and remit the tax withheld, and the partner who did not correctly declare the income he received.

(For feedback, please write to rjvaldezz@inquirer.com.ph.)

Net FDI inflows hit $766M in January

By Michelle V. Ramos

NET inflows of foreign direct investments rose by nearly four times year on year in January.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that net inflows of FDIs reached $766 million in January compared with the $214 million registered in the same period the previous year.

The BSP said the inflows benefited the manufacturing, trade, financial, real estate and mining sectors.

The inflows came mostly from investors in the United States, Australia, Hawaii and Canada.

"Positive domestic economic developments, including strong external payments dynamics and favorable corporate earnings in 2011 helped boost investors' sentiments," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

The central bank said that despite the lingering issues in the worldwide, the Philippines managed to attract more FDIs because of the improvement in the local economy's performance.

iRemit expands worldwide presence

By Doris C. Bumbio

CASH transfer firm iRemit Inc. will set up shops in Ireland, Germany and Switzerland this year to reach out to the non-Filipino market, especially the populous Chinese.

The country's leading non-bank remittance firm doubled its net profit last year to P130 million from a year ago despite the global slowdown. To grow its business, it has recently started serving the Chinese market and will also soon strut in remittance hotspots Indonesia and Myanmar.

About $1.9 billion in remittances were entered through iRemit last year, equivalent to a 7-percent market share.

The company's remittance volume had expanded by 17 percent year-on-year, with Singapore, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and Saudi as its biggest remittance sources.

This year, iRemit has started collecting remittance funds bound for China through a tie-up with Bank of China, which has 15,000 branches all over the mainland.

China is the world's second largest recipient of remittances, amounting to about $5.1 billion, or more than double the $2.6 billion Philippine remittance flowed in 2011.

Asia's emerging

Front page 81

in times of global economic uncertainties.

The problems now gripping most advanced economies in the West may prompt foreign fund owners to put their money in Asia's emerging markets. But a prolonged crisis in the West, which will dampen outlook on the global economy, may also prompt foreign fund owners to pull out their cash from emerging markets and stay on the sidelines.

Any sharp movements of foreign capital will also affect exchange rates, frustrating executives in major operations of businesses, particularly those that engage in import or export.

ADB said Asian central banks should have the necessary measures in place to avoid the disruptive effects of sharp movements in capital flows.

Share prices close up

Front page 81

There were 91 advancers against 69 decliners, while 44 stocks were unchanged.

Value turnover improved to P5.3 billion from Wednesday's P3.71 billion, but this was still thinner than the P7.85-billion daily average in the first quarter.

Dealers said some investors decided to stay in the sidelines, sticking to blue chips and strong second-line stocks, due to concerns over the pending market launch in North Korea and the coming earthquake in Japan.

Other index stocks that continued to the PSE's recovery were SM Investments; PLDT; BDO; UBC; Metrobank; BDO; Meralco; Ayala Corporation; AC; PCPC; BPI and EDC.

"Global markets rallied overnight, with improved investment as the previous sell-off was overdone," said investment bank Credit Agricole CIB. "That said, risk assets failed to recoup all of their losses."

Asian currencies and taxes are likely to trade in ranges today, as markets await the Chinese numbers on Friday.

Doris C. Bumbio

Electronics

Front page 81

be finally out of the negative territory—the bottom was reached in September 2011 when exports contracted by 27 percent," Diokno added.

Electronics accounted for 32.7 percent of total export revenue in February, making it a major driver for higher overall exports. The product category earned $2.333 billion, up 15.6 percent year on year.

Gold extracted from copper ore and concentrates raked in $65.4 million, marking a 1,418-percent year-on-year rise. It was the top export winner in terms of sales growth.

Japan took up 18 percent of total Philippine exports with billings amounting to $796.36 million (up 19.7 percent yearly).

Other top export markets were the United States ($687.64 million, up 11.8 percent) and China ($506.49 million, up 55.7 percent).

The Philippines needs an export boom to help spur growth by an annual rate of 7 to 8 percent from 2014 to 2016 and reduce poverty incidence in the country.

The price is tight

LET'S try it. The main cause in the power sector is the capacity in the price of electricity. It can make you cry.

This is a problem that is a million times harder to solve than just the availability of supply. Guys are said to be the highest electricity rates in all of Asia and nobody really seems to care, customer classes.

Then, if you ask the big business organizations, they would say that the price of electricity should be the first thing the Aquino (Part II) administration might want to consider in any of the proposed solutions to the problems in the power sector.

For regulars in the price issue is the question of whether or not the users of electricity can afford it—particularly the SMEs, the small and medium sized enterprises, the heart and soul of the Philippine economy, providers of millions of jobs.

The SMEs are hardly the kind of customers that can absorb some changes in rates in their expenses. Take the SME suppliers of department store chains. They are always at the mercy of those chains in terms of pricing, not to mention payment terms that can extend from one month to one year. Their profit margins are thin and to the bone.

It is not difficult to find a lot of those SMEs with high power rates. In fact, high in big business organizations' list of the most likely casualties of the current debilitating power crisis in Mindanao are the SMEs.

What, we try to trace back the source of our high electricity rates, our first stop should be the DOE, the powerful Department of Energy.

In this country, for whatever reason, the DOE must approve everything that has anything to do with electricity. The Secretary and his huge Commission, or the SEC, will not even accept some significant, for they question, if you happen to be going into a power generation unless you have the prior approval of the DOE for a recent contract. The DOE pre-screens everybody who wants to invest in power generation. Not all of them can pass the DOE examination.

Well, just remind for instance that a group has a pending application with the DOE for a new power plant in Luzon. The group has the money ready for a long time now—some $200 million of it. The only problem is that, for whatever mysterious reason, the DOE does not want to award the group a service contract.

Make no mistake: The power problem in this country is not limited only to Mindanao. At the risk the economy is growing, so-so improvements in the power industry. Luzon will soon suffer from power shortages. And this will be much worse for the economy particularly the SMEs, than the effects of the crisis in Mindanao.

Ironically, those of businesses closest to Luzon in Mindanao some years ago, because the electricity rates on the island were much lower than those in the parts of the country, it only goes to show the unpredictability in doing business in this country. And government policies, its actions—done or inaction, all times—have a lot to do with it.

The power problem in Mindanao technically is of a second shortage. Because Mindanao is reliant on hydropower, the island experiences power shortage during the summer months of summer. The people there must thus use the more expensive diesel-fuel as a source of electricity. In least there is an emergency power supply. Expensive, of course!

Such will not be the case in Luzon when the power crisis comes, according to experts in the power industry, because the shortage will be a permanent one. We really need new power plants here in Luzon. There is none in the making.

Except perhaps for the power plant that Aboitiz group Union Water Industries and Construction Co. Ltd. is building in the Subic Bay Economic Zone, which will supply the needs of the Korean company's new factory.

And look at this—for a foreign investor to have peace of mind in doing business here, it must build its own power plant. Wow!

The bad news in it comes about five years to build a new power plant, including the welcome of studies for the planning. Stunted growth is the only word for this.

Oh, I almost forgot that the hardest hurdles to observe the "approvals" of the government, particularly the DOE.

Among big business organizations, they are saying that the DOE, in giving out service contracts for new power plants, seems to be engaged in "managed supply" in a way the government is trying to control the supply of power to the country with the obvious aim of managing the price.

Officially, from what I heard, the DOE has its own leaflet Budget Interest (also SEC is that the government is not for power supply and demand to power to keep the price steady, which is good for both the power generation business and the users of electricity.

Sadly that is no longer the case. There is now a great imbalance. There is a shortage of power in Bel.

The question now is: Who are the guys that the DOE ends up protecting through the "managed supply"? Definitely not the guys down here in my barangay. Not even the Chamber of SMEs in the country.

Whether by accident or on purpose, the DOE is deeply participating the big boys in the power sector. They are the only business groups that can enjoy the high prices of electricity one mainly to the shortage that the DOE's "manage supply" brought about, in the first place.

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UCPB posted 25% profit growth in '11

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNITED Coconut Planters Bank grew its net profit last year by 25 percent to P3.05 billion from a year ago on higher interest earnings, treasury gains and core asset sale.

This year, the bank aims to post a net of $4 billion, remaining in financial turnaround for the fourth year.

"We are optimistic that we can sustain [CPB's growth momentum given our associates' commitment to building a bigger and stronger financial institution and our clients' loyalty to the UCPB brand," bank president Raymundo Medes said in a statement.

UCPB aims to achieve its P4 billion net income target for this year by creating more technology-driven products while expanding its loan portfolio, remittance business, bancassurance and branch network.

The bank—which previously dominated by coconut farmers—the government—has been profitable since 2009.

Apart from a robust increase in its interest income due to growth in loan portfolio, higher treasury trading income and aggressive sale of its property assets, UCPB attributed its strong performance in 2011 to efforts to trim cost of funds. Specifically, the bank phased out a costly "double your money" scheme and replaced it with long-term negotiable certificates of deposits.

The low-cost checking and savings accounts generated by its branches grew by 9.6 percent to P109.76 billion last year. Total deposits also increased by 7.4 percent to P144 billion, 68 percent of which consisted of checking and savings accounts.

UCPB also grew its earning assets by booking P97.1 billion in retail loans last year, 73 percent of which came from the corporate segment. The biggest growth, however, came from the consumer loans segment which catapulted by 34 percent to P10.3 billion from a year ago.

The bank's non-interest income in 2011 went down by 13.6 percent to P4.9 billion which was attributed to the change in government policies on clearing and the lower foreign exchange gains due to a strong peso.

On the expense side, UCPB curbed its operating costs in 2011 by 1.9 percent to P4.7 billion from a year ago as the bank consolidated processes using automation initiatives.

While the opening of new store branches, UCPB's total branch network is targeted to grow to 140 this year. With the growing demand for mobility and convenience, the bank has announced the upgrading of its phone banking service to include mobile banking.

UCPB said it may also tapping major property developers to make the bank's counter loans accessible to a bigger clientele and fuel loan-forging to spur retail, both farmers and office-based remittance companies to boost its remittance operations.

The bank ended 2011 with a higher capital-adequacy ratio of 11.91 percent compared to 10.08 percent a year ago and over the 10 percent requirement by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Security Bank bags Cesar EA Virata award

FOR THE seventh straight year, Security Bank has won the 2011 "Best Securities Broker" (banking category), also known as the Cesar EA Virata award, given yesterday by the Philippine Dealing System Holdings Corp. and Subsidiaries (PDS) group.

Puno Hwang Investments Corp. bagged the "Cesar EA Virata" award for the newly created investment house category.

The awards were issued in honor of former Prime Minister Cesar Virata, a veteran banker who was a key proponent of the securities market of the time. Besides trading platform in the country now operated by PDS' unit Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp.

For the banking category, the award is given to a bank trading participant that showed an "exceptional" performance in trading, distribution and underwriter activities.

The newly created category for investment house is given to an investment house trading participant that had an exceptional performance in trading and distribution as well as in the origination, underwriting and market-making of outstanding listed corporate securities.

PDS chair Vicente Cuello said the new category was created because the corporate bond market was growing significantly and investment houses were playing a bigger role in the capital market. David C. Bonoan

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Investment Performance Life Insurance Contracts	Apr. 11, 2012	Apr. 10, 2012
Bond Fund - Peso	2.2301	2.2132
Managed Fund - Peso	2.0794	2.0813
Growth Fund - Peso	2.0000	2.0011
Equity Fund - Peso	1.6980	1.6868
Blue Chip Fund - Peso	0.9790	0.9760
Dollar Bond Fund	1.0877	1.0869
Dollar Managed Fund	1.0288	1.0280
Dollar Equity Fund	1.0190	1.0180
Peso Managed Fund - Flexi	1.0188	1.0180
Dollar Managed Fund - Flexi	1.0188	1.0180
Global Equity Fund	0.8035	0.8026

AyalaLand

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of stockholders of AYALA LAND, INC. will be held at the Grand Ballroom, Intercontinental Manila, Ayala Center, Makati City, on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning with the following:

AGENDA

1. Proof of notice and determination of quorum
2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
3. Annual report
4. Ratification of all acts and resolutions of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee adopted during the preceding year
5. Election of directors (including the Independent Directors)
6. Approval of the following Amendments to the Seventh Article of the Articles of Incorporation:
   a. Change of par value and authorized number of the preferred shares (the "non-voting preferred shares") to one hundred
   b. Reclassification of 1 (hundred) unissued non-voting preferred shares into a new class of preferred shares with voting rights and a par value of P0.01 per share (the "voting preferred shares")
   c. Increase in the authorized capital stock from P21.00 to P22.00 by way of additional voting preferred shares
   d. Upon the redemption of the outstanding non-voting preferred shares and increase in the authorized capital stock, the decrease in capital stock from P22.00 to P21.00 by way of retirement of the 1 (hundred) non-voting preferred shares
7. Election of external auditor and fixing of their remuneration
8. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting
9. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on February 20, 2012 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this meeting.

Makati City, February 20, 2012

SOLOMON M. HERMOSURA
Corporate Secretary

Do you want to be an author?

Come to Project Author 1.2 on Saturday, May 5, 2012 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the AIM Conference Center and be inspired to fulfill your author dream!

Featuring: Samantha Sotto (Before Ever After), Grace D. Chong (Five-time Palanca Awardee), RJ Ledesma (It Only Hurts When I Pee), Larry Gamboa (Think Rich, Pinoy!), Ardy Roberto (Ang Pera Na Hindi Bitin), and Honeylein De Peralta (Hipsvada.com)

Limited seats are available. Call 3C or Juliet at 813-2703/32 and ask about our socialized pricing scheme. You can also text 0922.8983844 or email inquirer@mailbright.ph

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BUSINESS

PH targets more flights to S. Korea, Japan, China

By Paolo G. Montecillo

SEOUT/Korea, Japan and China have topped the government's list of "priority" markets that the Philippines needs to increase flights to in an attempt to attract more tourists and spur domestic output.

Documents from the Depart-

ment of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) showed Thailand and Indonesia rounding out the list of top five countries ruled by officials as high "source markets" for tourists.

"The prioritization of these countries is in line with our country's thrust to promote tourism as a pillar of our overall economic strategy," documents submitted by the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to the office of Transportation and Communications Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II read.

"These figures must be tested against other important factors, such as market growth potential, inbound versus outbound traffic ... economic conditions of potential markets, and other important factors," the papers said.

The rates flow on the list were Australia, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Myanmar and Brazil.

"Brazil is a key part of Philippine Airlines' (PAL) long term plan to open pioneering routes in South America. Brazil produces more visitors to the Philippines than any other South American country," CAB said.

The Aquino administration has tagged the tourism industry as one of the major growth drivers for the Philippine economy.

By the end of the President's term in 2016, the government hope to have 10 million foreign tourists visiting the Philippines, up from three million in 2010.

The DOTC said countries on the priority list may not necessarily be the biggest markets for the country's airlines. The main factor would be the potential for growth.

Earlier this month, the Philippine Air Panel, chaired by DOTC Undersecretary Jose Perpetuo Lotilla, signed a new Air Services Agreements with South Korea, increasing flights to and from the Philippines by 50 percent.

"South Korea is our number one source of inbound tourists, by a large margin. Korea is also number one in the list of priority markets submitted by the Tourism department (DOT)," the document said.

Power Situation Outlook
for Friday, 13 April 2012

Available Reserve (MW)	8,971	1,281	1,149
System Peak (MW)	7,200	1,380	1,201
Grid Reserve (MW)	1,771	412	-52

Ayala Development

ARTHALAND BREAKS GROUND FOR SECOND GREEN TOWER

Boutique developer, ArthaLand Corporation, recently commenced the excavation for the second tower of its flagship premiere project, Arya Residences, in McKinley Parkway, Bonifacio Global City.

Chairman Jaime C. Gonzalez (right) and Vice Chairman Ricardo S. Po, Sr. (left) witness the beginning of earthmovement for Arya Residences' second tower.

The 43-floor, dual-faced tower boasts of unique architectural statement, housing only a maximum of 8 sprawling units per floor. While keeping with the global green standard, this exclusive, low density residential condominium promises sustainability, luxurious and plush living with its graciously planned layouts and elegant finishes. It is the first and only top-tier residential development in the country registered under the USGBC LEED program with a certifiable goal of Gold. To know more, call 836-ALCO (2526) or visit the ArthaLand Sales Pavilion at The Fort.

Setting the stage foundation. ArthaLand President & CEO Angelo de Villa-Lacson (3rd from left) breaks the ground with ArthaLand's Gabby I. Ibañez, VP-Technical Services; Irma D. Cordero, VP-Project & Business Development; Edgar V. Sabalburo, Senior Construction Manager; Atty. Alejandro M. Ravelero, Jr., President & CEO of Arleo Philippines; and Engr. Dexter C. Marcelo, President/CEO of DoCOMO.

BUSINESS

Globe launches Tokyo03 service to help subscribers

By Paolo G. Montecillo

GLOBE Telecom subscribers can now contact their friends and relatives in Japan as a function of the cost as users can now make overseas calls at local rates.

In partnership with Japan-based company IPS, Inc., Globe recently launched Tokyo03, a mobile application for Apple iOS-based devices that offers "acquisition-deemed value" to those making frequent calls to Japan.

Currently available for the iPhone, iPad and the iPod, and soon to be available on the Android platform, Tokyo03 is an Internet phone application that assigns the user a virtual number.

Virtual numbers function like regular numbers and can be reached through cell phones or landlines.

By giving users a virtual Globe number, Tokyo03 allows those in the Philippines to communicate with their contacts in Japan and be charged local rates simply by dialing a Globe number, as though he were in the same country as the person he or she is calling.

While those in Japan are charged flat rates free for making calls to the Philippines through the Tokyo03 application, those in the Philippines who call their loved ones in Japan on their virtual number only need to pay local rates.

"Tokyo03 enables Philippines-based subscribers to save on costs by letting them make international calls to their loved ones in Japan at highly reduced rates," the company said.

"The innovation [also] aims to serve the Filipino telecommunication market in Japan, its five fourth largest foreign community in that country, Filipinos represent a large proportion of outbound calls, which have long been hampered by high international direct dial rates," Globe said.

To obtain the application on the iOS platform, the user only needs to search for "Tokyo03" on the app store on the iPhone, iPad or iPod and download it. Once the application is downloaded, the user enters his or her basic contact details. The user will then be instructed on how to complete the registration process.

Once completed, the user can purchase a unique virtual number and start making and receiving calls to and from the Philippines.

Vehicle sales down in Q1

Automotive sector confident of recovery in 2012

By Jerry R. Barros

VEHICLE sales dropped by 9.9 percent in the first quarter to 32,008 units from 35,581 in the same period last year, although the automotive sector remains confident that it is on track to a full recovery this year.

Rommel Gutierrez, president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Cmap), said in a briefing yesterday that the umbrella group expects a recovery this year due to the more stable supply of vehicles as production in Thailand has begun to normalize, as well as the introduction of new models.

Gutierrez said Cmap was working to even surpass the target vehicle sales this year of 134,800 units, based on the monthly performances of the automotive sector.

"We need to revisit our projection of 134,800 units. It could be higher. We are looking to release our new projections, the latest by May this year. We can already see some stability in supply this year," Gutierrez added.

Based on the joint report by Cmap and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA), sales for March alone reached 13,603 units, up 37.6 percent compared to the previous month's sales of 10,581 units.

According to the report, sales of passenger cars in the January-March 2012 period dropped by 22 percent or 9,843 units compared to the 12,356 units sold during the same period last year.

Compared to the previous month, March sales of passenger cars rose by 48.7 percent to 4,341 units, given Honda Cars' recent brand recovery.

Sales of commercial vehicles (CV) similarly fell by 3.6 percent in the first quarter of the year to 12,966 units from the previous year's 13,458 units.

For March alone, sales of CV rose by 22.3 percent to 9,298 units from the previous month's 7,598 units.

Of the commercial vehicles, sales of Asian Utility Vehicles increased by 11.2 percent year-on-year to 9,223 units from 8,293 units.

Sales of light commercial vehicles declined by 13.2 percent to 12,825 units in the first three months of the year from a year-ago level of 14,721 units, while sales of light trucks similarly rose by 13.8 percent to 543 units in the same period from the previous year's 477 units.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. maintained its top spot in the industry, as to sales as of end-March this year reached 13,845 units, cornering a market share of 38.78 percent.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. came second, with sales reaching 8,230 units during the same period, and grabbing a 23.24-percent market share.

On the third, fourth and fifth spots were from Philippine Hondo Cars Philippines Inc. and Ford Motor Co. Philippine , respectively.

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People, Events & Products

E-mail: supplements@inquirer.com.ph
Supplements Head Jong Hindoy

PLDT Telpad gets an 'app-grade' with TelMeHow

By Raquel Quintos

PLDT turns its attention to the hotly familiar phone, which has a while took a backseat with the popularity and prevalence of mobile phones.

What used to be the major communication device in homes, is a mere reminder of its former self. The Telpad, the first landline and tablet service in the country.

PLDT officials have high hopes for the product that they say will be functional not just for communication but as an interactive multimedia gadget that will serve as an information portal, education tool and even an entertainment device for members of the family.

With the revolutionary Telpad and the app services it offers, PLDT is more positioning itself not only as a hardware provider but as a software provider as well particularly with a new initiative of an app-called TelMeHow.

TelMeHow is an educational online component to and an interactive course of easy-to-follow, useful knowledge ideal for pursuing special interests, developing new skills or simply bonding with loved ones.

The app hosts several categories that family members can engage in, such as cooking, fashion, travel, photography, first aid, sports, music, lan, gauge and fitness, among others. These categories offer "how-to" content in various forms...text-oriented videos, photo-based supplemented by events. This exclusive Telpad app features popular experts in its various categories.

TelMe How features industry professionals with the likes of designer Isaac Jimenez and stylist Ben Consuelo who provide practical and professional tips. Travel blogger Gani Sinay of PinoyAdventurers.com shares tried and tested travel advice like packing orderly travel essentials.

For instance, for the cooking category, food connoisseur Erwin Hessell demonstrates how to cook while photos of the finished product, as well as the uniform version of the recipes, tips and ingredients, are also available. The cooking section highlights recipes from Erwin's personal cookbook collection such as the super simple burger recipe, grilled calamari and cheese and mushroom rolled pizzadoras.

TelMeHow app targets the tech-savvy generation for fun learning and for discovering wonderful things right inside the comfort of home.

TelMeHow will eventually include new categories including a section on pet-which will feature pet-friendly tips on how to keep your pets. Home buddies and interior decorating addicts can look forward to the home category called living space which will feature practical housekeeping and home decorating tips.

TelMeHow will also tie up with leading publications and websites for content sharing such as Mega.ph, Summit.ph as well as Rappler.com.

Also coming soon is a full-blown interactive user upload section which will feature selected content from Telpad subscribers. Whether it's an heirloom recipe or an original music video, Telpad users will soon have their own dedicated space under via TelMeHow.

Each Telpad plan comes with unlimited calls and unlimited broadband service. Plans start at P1,499 at 1 landline. The Telpad 2in1 is an Android-powered device as subscribers can take advantage of more than 400,000 applications available for download at Google Play.

As to those who already have the Telpad, the TelMeHow may soon be downloaded for free at http://www.PLDTtelpad.com/.

The Real Bank stages *'Madali lang Magbangko'* travelling exhibit

HELPING children improve their financial literacy is important because the money management skills that they pick up will help them even when they are already grown up. It is never too early to teach kids about money. Instilling good habits regarding spending and saving should start as early as possible.

One powerful way to teach kids about saving is to give them their own bank account. Get a passbook account and regularly make deposits on your child can see how his or her money grows. Being respectful of money means not spending money that you don't have and spending the money that you do have in a smart and reasonable manner.

A recent online study showed that over half the respondents claimed they earned money while in or before elementary school. Most of the respondents claimed they did not feel prepared to manage their money after high school and one in three are torn early credit card problems.

The Real Bank's theta... Basic...Mag-ipon at Magtipid program recently staged a travelling exhibit "Madali lang Mag-bangko," another component of the award winning advocacy which started in school year 2004-2005 with only 16 elementary schools as pilot sites in the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Region 4A.

The bank embarked on the advocacy because of its dictum of "Upholding Filipino Values: Supporting Filipino Dreams." What could be more Filipino than teaching children about responsible saving and how to save money? Believing that effective tools reward system building are the authentic and traditional Filipino value of thrift and service, the program aimed at teaching the children practical ways of thrift and savings from the wise use of resources.

Over the years, the advocacy program has grown and to date, 126 elementary schools in NCR, Region 3, Region 4A, Region 7 and Region 11. So far, close to a million students have benefited from the program.

Now on its eighth year, Basic...Basic...Mag-impok at Magtipid has launched the Madali Lang Magbangko Traveling Exhibit in 10 selected schools in the National Capital Region, Region 3 and Region 4A.

GRADE 5 teacher Mrs. Ilenia Pinillo officiates the ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Real Bank's "Madaling Magbangko" Traveling Exhibit at Punkia Elementary School.

The exhibit was formally launched at featuring Elementary School in Quezon CITY and has visited Mcarmping Bruno Elementary School, San Fernando Elementary School in Pampanga, Binakayan Elementary School in Cavite, Calamba Elementary School in Laguna, Bulan Sulaco Memorial School in Lipa City, Batangas, Juan Sumulong Elementary School in Antipolo City, Bethel Christian Academy in Obando, Bulacan, and in Cangalaan Elementary School in Plaridel, Bulacan.

"Most experts say spending and saving responsibly are the two most important aspects of money management that children need to be taught. Teaching children about responsible saving helps build many skills. They learn about counting and making change. Many preparatory skills children learn helps them in school. They learn how to save for little luxuries like a new mobile phone or a new pair of sneakers." Jose Arnulfo, chair of the Real Bank explained.

Teaching children of school age financial responsibility instills in them the value of saving for the future.

This year, the advocacy program, making contact of The Real Bank's theta... Basic ...Mag-impok at Magtipok program extends beyond the schools to the communities where they stand.

The Real Bank has received numerous awards and recognitions by both local and international bodies for the advocacy including the prestigious Bronze Anvil Award for their advocacy.

SMART LINK CONNECTS SEAFARERS TO PAG-IBIG

FILIPINO seafarers now have access to information that will help them care for their future, as well as invest their hard-earned funds into building a home for their family, even while at sea. Wireless leader Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) has partnered with the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), more popularly known as the Pag-IBIG Fund, enabling Filipino seafarers to learn and know more about Pag-IBIG's provident and housing programs, via Smart Link. The partnership benefits close to 400,000 seafaring Filipinos - who make an ideal a quarter of the world's seafarers, Smart said. the Smart Link service provides coverage to seafarers sailing within Asia Pacific, Indian Ocean, Middle East, Africa, and some parts of Europe and the Mediterranean. Using the Smart Link satellite phone service deployed across 1,000 maritime vessels, at least the seafarer's entire address on the fund's membership, savings, short-term loans and housing loan programs will be sent each time Filipino seafarers make a Smart Link call to their friends or loved ones in the Philippines. "We initiated this service to empower Filipino seafarers with the right information on how they can achieve their dreams of providing their families with a more comfortable life," said Tina Monzon, head of Smart's Global Access Group, which offers the Smart Link service. "When armed with the right info, they can hopefully make the correct decisions involved in building a home for their family with a roof of help from Pag-IBIG Fund," Monzon added. "We are glad to make road to seafarers through Smart attach. Sa Pag-IBIG, akon lang a kapuso! Sa IPIBig," shared lawyer Darlene Berberabe, chief executive officer of Pag-IBIG Fund. Shown in photo are, from left, Amador Gozos, vice president for international distributions group, and lawyer Darlene Berberabe, chief executive officer of Pag-IBIG Fund; Tina Monzon, group head, and Yabu Sandhu, marketing manager of Smart's Global Access Group.

AmCham holds Race for a Brighter Future on May 27

THE AMERICAN Chamber Foundation Philippines in partnership with Chevron Philippines, will be "racing" to get three entire participants' kids to RACE for a Brighter Future in a fundraising run "Race for a Scholar" slated on May 27, 2012 at the Bonifacio Global City. The money raised from the May 27 event will go to AmCham Foundation's scholarship program. This year, it hopes to raise enough to send 100 scholars to school. Actor and current Global Media Board (GMC) chair Vicente Rotondo will be at the race to lead the run. "Through the years, AmCham Foundation has helped countless of children reach their dreams. We've had graduates who are now working in companies, here and abroad. There are a lot of talented Filipinos out there and we want to give them the opportunity to develop those talents. Education is a building block. It could reach and touch many peoples lives, help one child and you would have helped the whole family. And in the future, they will be able to help others get educated as well," says AmCham Foundation managing president Jose Ma. Concepcion III. Participants can register as individuals or teams of three runners per team. There are three race categories: 3K, 5K and 10K. Assembly time is around 6 a.m. at the Bonifacio Global City. For only P600 to P900 registration fee, participants will get a race kit, singlet, a finishing and exclusive runner fabulous prizes including Suunto watches, five other total accessories and many more. Registration starts April 1 at One Sports branches or visit the American Chamber Foundation office, 25/F Cacho-Gonzalez Building, 101 Aguirre St. Brgy. Palanan, Makati City. For more information, call 816-0484 and 751-8000 or log onto www.amchamfoundation.com.

Navarrete, Gonzyeb to lead 2012 CREBA nat'l board

JERRY M. Navarrete and Charlie A. V. Gonzalez will lead the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBAI), as chairman of the board and president, respectively, for the year 2012. They were elected during the association's special general membership meeting and elections held last March 29. CREBAI is the Philippine umbrella organization of the real estate and housing industry composed of property developers, builders, contractors, suppliers and manufacturers of construction materials, real estate service practitioners and other professionals and entities engaged in 58 allied fields. With 28 chapters and chapters all over the country, CREBAI is the industry's most active and consistent advocate on programs and initiatives. It has become government's strongest ally in promoting a truly rational and affordable national housing program. The rest of the board members elected during the meeting are: Rosemarie C. Bass, Connie M. Beltran, Julius S. Topacio, Noel M. Torres, Basilio E. Ignacio, Roman Thaddeus R. Laporte Jr., Vitas P. Cruz, Florentino S. Bulatao Jr., Joanna Marie P. Valencia, Oscar A. Inocencio, John Kevin R. Liuson, Antonio B. De Guzman Jr., and Horacio C. Ofreneo.

Top business analytics firm holds learning forum for Philippine retailers

MANTHAN Systems, the leading software provider of retail-specific business analytics solutions, successfully held its first ever retail-oriented learning forum in the Philippines. The event was attended by more than 200 top retail executives from more than 40 of the top retail organizations in the Philippines including the Shoemart group, Robinsons group, Puregold, SM, Rustan, Metro Gaisano, Shopwise, and Watsons, among others.

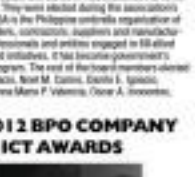
Entitled "Pit Stops in the Aisles – The New Velocity in Retail", the forum shared the latest trends and best practices in retail, both locally and globally. Speakers included Atul Jalali (Manthan CEO), Peter Chan (Shoemart President for the Internet), Mhar Dapia (Manthan Chief Technology officer) and Shalil Ali (Chief Information officer of the largest food retail conglomerate in Malaysia, Mydin Retail). Mydin's case highlighted the atmosphere of customer-centric and collaboration as he detailed Mydin's journey in deploying and benefiting from Manthan's ABC business intelligence solutions.

The software firm showcased to the attendees its cutting-edge analytical solutions that global retailers are quickly adopting to gain business advantage in an already ultra-competitive industry. Some of the latest concepts and technologies presented were predictive and guided analytics, supplier portal, financial analytics, HR analytics, property leasing analytics and store operational analytics. The latter, in particular, piqued up strong interest from the attendees as the solution manages store-analytical capabilities in merchandise, financial and HR areas. It provides a broad understanding on the effectiveness and profitability of a retailer's operations.

Speaking on global trends in retail analytics, Peter Chartrand, Manthan president Americas, "Customers from all retail segments like grocery, department stores, fashion and hard-goods are applying any edging on Manthan's solutions to better manage their business money. Manthan's retail performance management solution has completely changed how retailers adopt, deploy and employ analytics. Retailers are now quick to see the value of their hoards of data, they weren't making good use of it or at least not to the most efficient manner possible.

ACCENTURE EARNS 2012 BPO COMPANY OF THE YEAR AT INT'L ICT AWARDS

ACCENTURE has been recognized as the Philippines' Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Company of the Year at the International Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Awards Philippines 2011. Accenture is the only company to earn this distinction twice, having received the award in 2009. On its 6th year, the International ICT Awards recognizes individuals and organizations for their contributions to making the Philippines among the leading countries and knowledge process outsourcing destinations of choice. Boardmen in the BPO Company of the Year category were judged on size and growth of revenue as well as employment, size, quality and growth of workforce, depth and breadth of competencies as demonstrated through industry recognition and relevant certifications, investments in the development of its people, processes and technology, and success stories from customers, employees and other stakeholders. The International ICT Awards committee also looked at the companies' management capabilities, corporate social responsibility programs, and support for the Philippine ICT industry. Lito Tayag, Accenture country managing director, said "Accenture has made great strides in growing the business, our capabilities and our people in the past 27 years. We are deeply honored by this recognition and appreciate the International ICT Awards." Photo shows Lito Tayag, country managing director of Accenture in the Philippines, as he received from Jose Mendiola, head of PLDT Corporate Business, the Trophy for BPO Company of the Year during the awarding ceremony of the International ICT Awards Philippines 2011.



Biomass use urged to solve Mindanao power problems

By Amy R. Remo

LOGS, sugar millers are urging the government to consider biomass power as an alternative baseload solution to the worsening energy crisis in Mindanao, as the island has abundant biomass energy resource that can provide 70 megawatts in additional power generation capacity.

In a statement, the Philippine Sugar Millers Association (PSMA) said many of the measures that had been put forward were short-term and costly.

The group said fossil fuel-based power plants, such as coal and diesel, had been prominently offered as the answer to the problem, notwithstanding the negative environmental and socioeconomic impact of aforementioned on fossil fuel.

"Energy policy makers need to realize that Mindanao, being agriculture-based, possesses an abundant biomass energy resource which is presented as a surplus from the production of various agricultural crops in the region. Biomass from rice, coconut and sugarcane are either just left in the fields after harvest to decompose or are burned," PSMA said.

According to the group, the sugar sector of, for the best solution.

Based on a purely sugarcane production of 5 million tons in Mindanao, about 1.5 million tons of bagasse (biomass) are generated by the mills in the region. Currently, bagasse is only used to generate the internal power requirements of the four mills located in the region whose combined generating capacity is only about 30 megawatts, the group claimed.

"If the government will only show a strong and unwavering effort to fully implement the Renewable Energy Law, the sugar mills would be encouraged to invest on the necessary facilities which would allow them to have a surplus capacity of about 35 MWs to 70 MW to augment the supply of power in Mindanao," PSMA said.

Gov't debt payment down 19%

P124.3B in principal, P70.8B in interest settled in Jan.-Feb.

By Raissa M. Dattugio

THE GOVERNMENT spent P195.1 billion in the first months of February to pay its debts, down 19 percent from the P241.5 billion settled in the same period last year, according to the Bureau of the Treasury.

The BTr said the government shelled out less for principal payments but more on interest payments in January and February.

During the period, a total of P124.39 billion in principal obligations were paid, including P115.14 billion in domestic debts and P9.16 billion in foreign loans.

The principal payments in those two months was 33 percent lower than the P183.32 billion paid in the same period last year.

Also, the government paid P70.85 billion in interest, rowing by P41.6 billion in domestic debts and P29.30 billion on foreign loan earnings.

Total interest payments for the period was 22 percent higher than the P57.995 billion recorded in the same period of 2012.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said interest charges settled in the first two months increased by P12.9 billion due to the big jump in such payments in January.

The increase in January was compared to the decrease in February, which was primarily due to a lower volume of outstanding treasury bonds that had to be settled.

In February, alone, the government paid P66.2 billion in financial obligations, including P65.1 billion in domestic debts and P13.35 billion in foreign loans.

The month's total was 40 percent lower than the P116.52 billion paid in the same month last year.

Rather, Abad said interest payments for the whole of 2013 reached P279 billion, declining year-on-year by 5.4 percent.

The budget chief said last year's spending on interest payments was 16 percent lower than planned by 15.2 percent.

He said the government last year saved as much as P42.4 billion from interest payments because of a lower budget deficit and produced debt management.

Last month, the government posted a P30.06-billion budget surplus as of February, contrary to expectations, said Abad.

"The surplus is due to government saving increase in revenue collection," he said. "Revenues for the month increased by 49 percent or P39.2 billion due to unprecedented increases in Internal Revenue collections (28.8 percent), Customs collections (20.7 percent) and Treasury income (166.6 percent)."

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. (center) exchanges pleasantries with Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) chair Hiromasa Yonekura (left) and Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Toshinao Urabe (right). Tetangco and the visiting representatives of Keidanren discussed common areas of interests, particularly strengthening regional financial cooperation and boosting technical collaboration.

PPP when government fails

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

ACCORDING to Jose Ataman, chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries, it was only in 2004 when the anti-smuggling drive scored significant success. But can investor public private partnership (PPP) was truly in action, though it was not called PPP then.

The drive was so successful, with well-connected corporate politicians and deserved, some of powerful Cabinet officials identified, that this PPP structure was abruptly abolished. Smuggling again flourished. It still flourishes today by itself, government has failed to stop it.

PPP absence

PPP's absence in the anti-smuggling campaign has had disastrous effects. Today government is deprived of more than P100 billion in forgone revenues because of rampant smuggling.

The solution is to direct by taking the difference between the reported exports from other countries to the Philippines by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Comtrade, and the National Statistics Office.

The three organizations' estimates are very close to each other. However, they differ significantly from the reported imports from the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

The Alyansa Agribuhayan has stated that the 30 percent running duty on P600 billion a year) from the BOC report can be accounted for by either outright smuggling or technical smuggling (i.e., misclassification, misidentification and misdeclaration).

The BOC has never answered this question posed by the Alyansa Agribuhayan in forums like official meetings with the BOC, a Senate hearing, and various media briefings. It is bad enough that we lose so much forgone government revenues to smuggling. Worse, rampant smuggling kills agriculture and industry, thus depriving us of much needed jobs.

Hog industry

Hog farmers, including Edwin Chan, president of the Pork Producers' Association of the Philippines and concurrent Alyansa agriculture vice president, put as desperate they published two full-page ads to ask for anti-smuggling action. They pointed out that they lost P6.7 billion for eight months alone largely due to smuggling. They also pointed out that 70 percent of hog producers are small backyard farmers.

What the full-page ads did not state is that these backyard owners produce more than 50 percent of hogs. More importantly, 20 percent of them have already left their livelihood.

Information from the Department of Agriculture (DA) Bureau of Agriculture Statistics (BAS) shows that backyard farmers produced 600 million heads in 2009 and 610 million in 2011. For March, 2012, estimates are more at 7.9 million, or 29 percent less than 2009. So far the full-page ads have resulted in very little action.

Solution

We believe this is because there is no PPP in anti-smuggling. PPP is not working because it needs a movement to support it. Government will issue strategy. It's simple; if there is a PPP strategy but no PPP structure, there will be no PPP.

The solution is to create what already worked in the past. It is a PPP structure such as the very successful Cabinet Oversight Committee on Anti-smuggling (Cocos). Cocos was abolished in 2004 after several months previously because it was successful. It had five Cabinet Secretaries from the Departments of Finance, Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Justice, and Interior and Local Government.

Cocos also had representatives from the private sector from the Alyansa Agribuhayan for agriculture and the other from the Federation of Philippine Industries for industry. Cocos met every two weeks to recommend and, more importantly monitor anti-smuggling action. Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina chaired Cocos. Lina should be re-convening the body (the PPP Against Smuggling PPPAS) to support him.

At the PPPAS, we expect better public sector coordination. The DA officials said they have made recommendations to BOC, but frequently get a dead end. They complain that customs should tell Marina (MA, but only BOC, for smuggling.

We respectfully but strongly disagree. We elected one government. Its agencies should work together. DA should implement its mandate by cooperating with the good forces in BOC to protect the farmers. We believe that, with the right PPP structure, the government will help attain the bounce of the transparency and accountability that will be achieved during the PPPAS regular meetings.

So why not create a PPPAS structure to follow the strategy of anti-smuggling? It worked very well in the past. We do not have to reinvent the wheel. What are we waiting for? Is there truth to the rumor that some newspaper publishers need smuggling continue at the expense of poor farmers' livelihoods to fund their 2013 electoral bids? On this important smuggling issue, the government's political will will be tested in the next few weeks. We hope that our government will not be found wanting.

The author is chair of Agrinurse, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agrinurse@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522732.

COMMENTARY

PH eyes additional US sugar quota

By Bea T. Dalusaldos

THE PHILIPPINES is well on its way to achieving its target raw sugar output this crop year, according to industry figures. About 1.86 million tons of sugar had been produced as of March 25, 2013.

The target is 2.15 million tons to 2.24 million tons sugar for the end of the current crop year on Aug. 31. This puts current production at 86.5 percent of the lower end of the target range.

Sugar Regulatory Administration records as of March 25, 2012 show that Negros is leading production with almost 1.66 million tons. Mindoro was a far second with 154,858.42 tons. Luzon followed with 264,376.29 tons while Panay has clocked up 111,282.06 tons and Eastern Visayas, 50,652.53 tons.

Sugar mills have reported higher recoveries compared to the previous crop year but supply is expected to remain stable.

With production on target, the Philippines is ready to complete its U.S. sugar quota of 138,827.30 tons for fiscal year 2013 (ends September) and is ready to supply the last shipment of 20,163.23 mill be made this month.

In the meantime, the Philippines is awaiting the US Trade Representative's announcement on any additional quota that the country can fill for the same fiscal year.

"Under the US Farm Bill, announcements for additional quota are to be made after April 1, so we are waiting for the USTR's announcement. We are hopeful that we can get an additional quota of 68,000 tons or 300,000 tons," said Annie L. Bacawa, legal officer of the Philippine Sugar Millers Association, in a phone interview.

Bacawa said the entire quota, which the Philippines was aiming for, has been fully industry feedback from abroad. The US sets sugar quotas based on stakeholder consultations and on supplier countries' reliability.

The US pays premium price for Philippine sugar ordered under its quota system.

Economy seen growing by 4% in '12

By Michelle V. Remo

MOODY'S Analytics expects Philippine economic growth to accelerate this year, but cut its pace down from that targeted, citing the dampening effects of a still-weak global economy on Southeast Asian countries.

In a report, Moody's Analytics said the Philippines would likely grow by 4 percent this year and 4.8 percent next year.

The projections are faster than the 3.7 percent posted last year, but are below the government's growth target. It has projected this year and even next year.

Moody's Analytics said the likely acceleration of the country's growth this year was anchored on expectations that domestic demand would remain robust, tempering the likelihood of a still weak demand for exports.

However, it said the economy might not grow as fast as desired given the impact of global economic problems, led by a possible mild recession in the Eurozone.

Moody's Analytics said neighboring countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore were likewise seen to post growth rates slower than what their governments desired.

The Euro zone is one of the main export markets for Asian goods.

"Under the US Farm Bill, announcements for additional quota are to be made after April 1, so we are waiting for the USTR's announcement. We are hopeful that we can get an additional quota of 68,000 tons or 300,000 tons," said Annie L. Bacawa, legal officer of the Philippine Sugar Millers Association, in a phone interview.

Bacawa said the entire quota, which the Philippines was aiming for, has been fully industry feedback from abroad. The US sets sugar quotas based on stakeholder consultations and on supplier countries' reliability.

The US pays premium price for Philippine sugar ordered under its quota system.

Fil-Estate gets P500-M property infusion

HOLDING firm SM Investments Corp. will get a P500-million property infusion from upscale residential park developer Fil-Estate Properties Inc. in line with the Bonifacio-led firm's search for fresh opportunities in the property sector.

The company's board approved the property infusion by Mr. Zosa, a wholly-owned unit of FEC's controlling stockholder Fil-Estate Management Inc. (Femi). Likewise approved was the conversion into equity of FEC's P200-million debt to Femi.

Both subscription of 2.5 billion, 76 percent of FEC, will accept additional 200 million common shares of the latter at par value of P1 per share. The P500 million worth of property to be infused by Mr. Zosa represents about a 50% of the value of the residential lots available for sale based on FEC's 2010 annual report. Originated in 1995, Mr. Zosa has 51 residential packs nationwide with 1,000 hectares of unexploited lots available for sale, with an estimated value of P2.5 billion, according to the firm's latest regulatory filing.

The infusion fund being been planned for the domestic were formed up by the SM Investments.

Boris G. Ilarina

Ortigas group putting up retail center in QC township project

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ORTIGAS property group has fine-tuned its P5.5-billion township project "Circulo Verde" in Quezon City to include a retail center, an enhanced open space that will serve as a central park and a new road bridge that will open a new route to Pasig.

In a briefing on Wednesday, Ortigas general manager for real estate division Joey Sarao also said the group's subsidiary unit, Ortigas Holdings, would still pursue its listing by the second half of this year. The group has mandated investment bank UnionBank to firm up an initial public offering worth at least P200 million.

Sarao declined to comment on shareholders' discussion with the SM group on its proposal to subscribe to a tranche of shares in the Ortigas property group. Other sources said the structure of SM's entry was being finalized.

The Ortigas group, a key urban developer, has 50 hectares of land in Quezon City, Pasig and Mandaluyong. Another 40 hectares are in Cainta, Rizal province, composed of 10 hectares in Camp Crame and 30 hectares in Camp Aguinaldo, which were donated to the government years ago. It holds the right to buy back these pieces of land if the military would decide to use them for other purposes.

In the briefing, Sarao and Ortigas Works was setting an example in "effective urban planning" and offering of residential units at "affordable" prices.

Revisiting the masterplan for the project, Sarao said the group would build a stand-alone retail village offering more than 10,000 square meters of retail space that would offer various lifestyle shops and convenience stores for residents. He said the group would invest up to P500 million in the retail center.

"It's a true retail center with a supermarket, cafes and lifestyle stores," he said.

About 70 percent of the development's still devoted to open space but in the old masterplan, there would have been a road in the middle of the development. Instead, there will be a 1.5-hectare all-green open space in the middle of the project and the buildings will be pulled out further from the center to give residents a view of the central park. "It's probably the largest private residential park in any development," Sarao said.

The group is also proposing to build a new suspended steel bridge connecting Circulo Verde to Ortigas Avenue, which is linked to Ortigas. This, however, is still subject to the approval of concerned local government units.

"It will only be the second bridge that connects Quezon City to Pasig," Sarao said, adding that 1.27 more new lane bridge would ease traffic flow in the area.

The Ortigas group plans to start construction of the bridge by June and finish it next year. It is "compelling" to open the 500 residential units in Circulo Verde's first two towers. This will also coincide with the opening of the new road corridor.

On the building front, Sarao said, the market debut, Sarao said a property firm debuting on the stock market this year would have a "compelling" story "if the ventures are all for a mix of revenues and our model is very close to that of some of the bigger players. We have good mix of recurring income and development income this week and 500," he said.

Ortigas has a cash flow of over P1 billion.

Marketing Buzz

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

NY agency creates global Pacquiao ad

By Roger Pe
Contributor

MARTIN Scorsese directed. hugely acclaimed films like "Taxi Driver," "Raging Bull," "Good Fellas," "The Departed," "Shutter Island," and this year's Oscar nominated "Hugo."

Erykah Badu is known for her emotional music style. Oftentimes, she is called the "Queen of Neo-Soul" music.

Manny Pacquiao is... Who doesn't know him?

All these icons star in Hennessy's "What's Your Hallelujah?" ad campaign, the brand's answer to TV advertising after a five-year hiatus.

Launched last month, it is the largest marketing investment by the world's number one cognac brand in its 257-year history.

According to folklore, cognac was sold in the French Cognac region. Though the animals are barely seen, storytellers loved telling that they drive people in droves for success.

Closing a solid exhibit is about pursuing your dreams, never giving up even when the darkest hour hits, seemingly done and life has thrown hundred punches completely.

Many stories have been told about Manny Pacquiao's humble beginnings, a harsh life of debilitating poverty after his father left his mother for another woman.

Life as a rambunctious teenager, junior, cigarette vendor, bakery helper, bread peddler, he did many other menial odd jobs to keep body and soul together.

He ended up in the boxing ring, a brutal life mastering his opponents at every mandatory round down. A devastating knock out during his early boxing years almost succeeded. The Manny Pacquiao we see today.

But life has a way of rewarding hard those who keep on walking, on moving.

Directed by Johnny Green, the Manny Pacquiao part is about his solid exhibit chase, condensed into a gut wrenching 90-second spot, of grit, determination and something in could ever long after the last boxing "hell" had left him dead eyeing silence.

It is not by luck, nor by any chance that the new Pacquiao commercial came out as an inspiring advertising.

It was handled by no less than Daniel Sinoga, founding chair of Dentsu, last year's Cannes Lion Outdoor Grand Prix winner and past competition head of jury.

Together with his equally stellar Executive Creative Director Ted Royer, he made sure it would be.

Both Dingo and Royer were frequent Manila visitors during the mid-90s as part of their regional roles, overseeing Asian Brands and Isuzu's agencies' creative output.

Global TV commercial

The ad begins with a dramatic close up shot of young Pacquiao (Jesse casting) in an outdoor setting.

Cutting inexpressively between a wild mustang and lone desert, the opening scene establishes him as a metaphoric hunter, running after the proverbial wild rabbit.

A rabbit in a tropical country like ours? Don't think you might catch it, but it doesn't matter if it's a real or not, the chase is symbolic enough.

The juxtaposition of scenes into Pacquiao's frenetic training is beautifully executed. The camera chases him, too, as he pounds a desolate road on daybreak.

Chronicling his difficult life in Cotabato terrain, memorable, dirt road color is authentic, and the serious, isolated tone leave done good to watch.

The emptiness acting as a soundon shuffle under a mod of a shoeless house evoke so much pathos.

The frantic-ending flash of spare cows roaming for the night, darkening the skies is a cinematic gem.

"It's almost too beautiful to be considered 'advertising' size, 90-Ave creative director Joel Villaflor on his Facebook wall.

The wannabe Pacquiao queuing in a local boxing gym, inspired by Pacquiao's life story are honored scenes.

Seeing the Manila BBT line exposed in Hollywood filmic-quality makes you smile.

The run-to-see of Pinoys from all walks of life, cheering boys on every populated alley, a jam-packed cockpit, a billiard hall... in millions of homes across the nation will you something we're a one big united country without a doubt.

Climactic scene

Pacman, the raging bull tames like mad. The knock out machine is power-packed solid at the punishing long pounds for punch. How he blew, hard hitting to the core.

Seven, he is ready to crumble. We are transported to Jan Ingar Madison Square Garden as the world watches. We get a glimpse of Hennessy as a human being, his words pouring in a small corner.

Pacquiao runs his tenth world title to eight different weight classes. As he raises both hands, the ad cuts back to his long and lonely journey to determination, making the moment an emotional powder keg.

Certainly, director Green knows how to squeeze more tears from the audience.

"Fighting the fights that really matter. That's my solid subtle," Pacquiao says, as he peers from a window of his palatial home.

"You'd want to see the ad over and over again, whether you've been honored by life or have only a silver spoon in your mouth, or simply love a great inspiring ad.

New York agency Dingo

David Dingo as listed as one of advertising's "Ad Geniuses" who began winning Cannes Lions at age 23.

He led Saatchi & Saatchi's Asia operation, based in Singapore and made the agency the best in the world in 1999.

He was executive creative director (ECD) of Saatchi London where the agency was named "Global Agency of the Year" in Cannes in 2001.

'How else do we grow our ethical pharma business?'

Dr. Ned Roberts
& Andy Roberts

MARKETING Rx

Q: WE FOUND your March 30th column on "How do I grow my car dealership business?" process. It's so easy for least. We've not in our dealership but not except in a related industry. But it was your business growing model revolving around your so-called "your choice system" that intrigued us.

We're on the ethical pharma business. That means we're marketing prescription drugs to doctors. Some of our major concerns and it has been so over the past so many years is similar to that of the car dealer who asked for your Marketing Rx. That's how to grow our ethical pharma business with doctors.

Since Charlie White can't answer on the topic of our executive lunch learning forum. It was there where our marketing VP proposed to us that we ought to explore our own model of a "purchase system" based business growing. When asked how, our marketing VP was quick to tell us that he'd like us to ought not to be limited about the model. Instead of talking about "purchase system," she said we should speak of our doctors' "prescription system."

Perplexed in tell us how to do that exploring, she could not get specific and instead just said: "Why don't we ask Dr. Ned and Andy?" And this is exactly what we're doing.

A: We certainly agree with you that the business of car dealership of the couple who wrote us is different in both kind and scale from your prescription drug business. The scale must be especially different.

We're assuming that you can't be in the prescription drug and marketing to doctors if you're not big enough to have a med rep here of your own to detail to those doctors and a sales force either of your own or of your distributor to sell to drugstores.

But whether you're as small as a car dealership or as large as a prescription drug company that can afford to have a regular "executive lunch learning forum," you share the common problem of how to grow the business.

If you share a common problem, does it follow that you share the same "solutions?" That's the essence of your question.

More specifically, are you given your prescription pharma business by tapping into the business growing secret centered in the "purchase system" model? We like the way your marketing VP relabeled that model as "prescription system."

Because she was quickly able to appropriately "rename the purchase system" model, we're not ready to say that your marketing VP "could not get area specific" about how exactly the "prescription system" can grow your business. We think she knows and must have said so but you're writing to seek our Marketing Rx just to sort of validate what she probably said. Whether or not this is the truth, we still seem to answer your question if only to demonstrate how powerful and insightful the concept of "prescription system" is.

So, in the ethical pharma business, what is the "prescription system" as a source of business growing? Let's borrow from the perspective of the doctor's patient, for example, the case of the senior MDs or. After his cardiologist prescribed a daily dosage of an anti-hypertension drug, an anti-cholesterol, an anti-thrombosis, and a diuretic. That was his "prescription system" and it's the case for many others like him who were hypertensive. So here's a large prescription market segment, a source for growing your ethical pharma business if "doctor-like" proposition. It's small as a segment population size but huge as a segment market size when you multiply it small population size by its 365-daily dosage frequency.

Today, the senior MDs is still taking his daily dosage of his "prescription system" although one or two of the drugs have been replaced with newer and supposedly better "next generation" medications. However, today another prescription system has been added. That's because he now has Diabetes Type 2 that has to be managed with its own "prescription system." So here is another just as large, if not larger prescription market segment, another just as big if not bigger source of growing your ethical pharma business that together with the preceding prescription system will make for a total source of business growing that is of, shall we say that time, "Titanic proportion" (but we'll do hope that the idea does not make your business sink).

Let's now elaborate a little bit more how this set of prescription systems can become and in made the system source for growing your ethical pharma business.

While many pharma companies may have most or even all the medicines in an ethical's prescription system, they usually don't market and ethically promote them as a "system."

And so you may have Glaxo promoting its cardiologist-use Coreg and cardio premier its anti-hypertension brand; Pfizer, its anti-cholesterol brand, Norvasc, its anti-thrombin brand, and Astra, its diuretic brand.

To use specific business growing strategy is to promote and market a "prescription system" push. Actually, it doubles with the anti-Rx market segment, that's how pharma companies participating in this market segment are marketing and doing ethical promotion to pulmonologists and GPs with pulmo practice. So this procedure has already been set. It's a matter of integrating the practice to the other unexplored or underserved therapeutic segments.

But even if the marketing and ethical promo practice remains as to the hypertensive market segment, there still is some untapped or underserved business growing market segments there. You can answer these by asking the question we asked to the car dealership one. Here's the question as applied to your pharma setting: "Is the prescription system you now have, what is/are the necessary and absolutely necessary products and services?" Let's stay with our hypertension one.

The necessary or even absolutely necessary medication is low dose aspirin as anti-thrombotic.

So if you are Glaxo promoting your anti-hypertension or Pfizer promoting your anti-cholesterol, bring in your own low dose aspirin or "partner" drug in the anti-hypertensive or the anti-cholesterol. That's equivalent to a mini-prescription system that might just work with doctors in the senior perspective age in the full-blown total prescription system done right.

We'd like to end by saying again that you can find more market segment leads for business growing in the market segmentation tandem covered in the Senior MDs. or's. Depressing book.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at Marketingrx@yahoo.com or drned@mdmarketing.com.ph. Good luck!

HELP kids make money, not just spend, this summer.

Bazaar to teach kids about entrepreneurship

AFRIL signals the end of classes and the start of summer. With the onset of the heat and lots of available free time at one's disposal, the need to also synonymous with vacations and weekend getaways to beaches and exotic spots. At first, kids may find the first few weeks amusing, having no school or homework to contend with. But it becomes boring and too long if parents can't find a way to make use of the empty schedule.

From ice to toes, a kid with too much time on his hands can easily be left out of trying shops and many sights. If the first day of school can't come soon enough and nothing is done, we can take steps to get energy back into summer.

While having summer jobs is a good idea, only not let kids venture into a summer business as an alternative source of income?

Inspired by the many growth of the economy there is an increasing trend of parents encouraging their kids to participate in business workshops or bazaars. With the usual botanicals, homemade ice candy or ice bake murals no longer top the list for summer money-making schemes, there are lots of ways to bring home the bacon.

Such is the story of the Aunteprenneurs, a group established by an Aunt cousins namely Minnie, Mau, Pammie, Cicelee, Angie and Mae Juan. These kiddos started their journey towards entrepreneurship last December 2011 by joining the Kiddopreneur Bazaar held at the Bellaverde Clubhouse. They sold catnip kiddie bits, do-it-yourself candies, Jeep or Juan books and bracelets.

For their business stint, the Aunteprenneurs were declared the winners of the "Best in Service" award at the end of the bazaar. They will be back again at this year's Kiddo-preneur Bazaar and will be selling live natural and organic products. The kids chose live products because they know that the customers and daddies will be interested in these all natural and organic products.

These organic items product lineup includes Green Tea, Sweet Pea, Goats Milk and their Best Bespic Special Ginger Massage Oil, Regular Relaxing or Therapeutic Massage Oil.

Oatmeal and Goats milk Body Scrub, Soap, Shampoo and Conditioner, Shea Sun-Block Butter and Lip Shield, Shea Butter Moisturizer Pan Lotion and Lip Balm. They will also sell their best selling product in the list, Instant Ice Lemon Piggy Bank.

The most awaited bazaar designed to teach kids about entrepreneurship is back. Join the Kiddo-preneur Bazaar on April 14 at the Plaza @ Alphaland Southgate Mall. It's a whole day event where parents can teach their kids a thing or two about financial literacy by demonstrating important money management basics. With kids supervision from adults, help your child establish his/her own bench, manage it and observe how simple financial ideas apply in real life.

Like Aunteprenneurs on Facebook and visit them at the Kiddo-preneur Bazaar.

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Bringing modern living to the next level in QC

AFTER a hard day at work or in school, homeowners can easily find respite and a good night's sleep in their Princeton Residences home

By Raquel Gamez

High-rise residential buildings are slowly creeping into Quezon City as big developers have begun locating their projects into the city, which for a long time used to be the center of a subdivision sprawl.

SM Development Corporation (SMDC) has already begun constructing several projects in Quezon City, which is also home to some of the country's most prestigious schools and universities such as the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University, and also some presidential private and public hospitals in the region.

SMDC projects in Quezon City boast of five-star amenities and features but at relatively cheaper prices compared to other similar developments to nearby cities like Makati. The target is more up families and students seeking a home within the vicinity where they work or study.

Myriad of home options for students

Elite Residences and Berkeley Residences are ideal for students completing their degrees at nearby de Manila and Miriam College, located along Katipunan Avenue. The developments are near the two schools.

As they are targeting the student popula-

BUSINESS B2-3

TOP students find top-notch homes in Blue Residences. Pictured on the corner of Katipunan Avenue and Aurora Boulevard

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By Kenneth M. del Rosario

Go for coastal lifestyle for fitness and fun

With a natural terrain and well-equipped beach and country club facility for an active lifestyle, it isn't surprising that Pico de Loro Cove at Hamilo Coast is espousing a more coastal and outdoor-oriented lifestyle.

Pico de Loro Cove is the maiden development at Hamilo Coast, Hamilo's premier coastal community located in Nasugbu, Batangas, a three-hour drive from Manila.

Its other premiere destination can boast of an environment that caters to a variety of sports pursuits such as running, cycling, swimming, kayaking, squash tournaments, and frisbee games that combine fitness and fun.

"Before the trend to go back to the healthy lifestyle first entirely seeped [such] into the consciousness of the Filipino people, we were already launching events that involved getting people outdoors to enjoy the environment while getting fit," said Bernd Torsten Tan, senior vice president of Costa del Hamilo, Inc.

Sports and recreation is an important element of the active lifestyle that Pico de Loro advocates. That is why, she said, they enjoined the husband-and-wife team of Tess Brown and Nicole Leon-Brown—both elite athletes—to head its sports and recreation activities.

The move would help Pico de Loro strengthen its commitment to provide for its members' athletic inclinations.

"When people come here, especially during weekends, we want to make sure there are a variety of things for them to do. It doesn't matter what age or fitness level they are, there will be outdoor-oriented activities for them to enjoy," Tan said.

Brown agrees, saying that from a professional athlete's view point, there's a lot of potential for Pico de Loro to attract elite athletes from here and abroad to train regularly.

"Unlike in Manila, there are no pressures or temptation to knock you over," said Brown. "I can see this place as the go-to place for sporting activities outside Manila."

"It's just so inspiring to see them and just cruise. When you cruise, you see birds, invasive fresh air. Those are luxuries you don't see in the city every day," said Atal.

The Browns bring to Pico de Loro Cove a wealth of experience as both are successful athletes and professional coaches.

Tess is head coach of the Philippine Triathlon Team, and is involved in training beginner to high performance endurance runners and triathletes. He has completed 15 Ironman races.

Atal, on the other hand, is a three-time Philippine National Triathlon Champion and was the first Filipino to ever break into the top 15 in the Asian Triathlon Championships.

Tess and Atal have tons of activities in store for the coming year, including aquasentance race with celebrity co-captains, swimming events, and running relays.

The good part about this is that these activities are open not just for members but also to the wider community. This is confident that once people get to experience the beauty of the place, it would be hard for them to resist not becoming a resident or, at the very least, a regular visitor.

"With all the gadgets that kids have nowadays, we really like to make these physical activities be more of a regular thing rather than a one-time event," Tan said.

Residents seem very happy with the push for a more active lifestyle. On a regular weekend, there could really be as many as 200 visitors coming to the club. But for long weekends and holidays, as many as 500 visitors come to enjoy the facilities. Those numbers, unsurprisingly, continue to grow.

Pico de Loro Beach & Country Club at Pico de Loro, Hamilo Coast is for members only. For inquiries on how to become a member, please call 858-0500 or visit www.hamilocoast.com.

New bridge linking Pasig and QC to start soon

PROPERTY developer Ortigas & Co. will construct a two-way 127-meter link called the Circulo Verde Bridge that would connect Quezon City to Pasig. Based on the final design, construction is estimated for approximately 12 months, from June 2012 until June 2013, with an estimated cost of P200 million.

The steel suspension bridge, which length is about a quarter of the Guadalupe bridge, will have a 7.3-meter carriage width or 3.65m for each side. Anchored on Circulo Verde's perimeter road, Circulo Verde Bridge will have a capacity of at least 840 vehicles that could reduce the volume of vehicles from Calle Industria and a portion of Ortigas Ave. Ext. by as much as 50 percent.

Quezon City is home to Circulo Verde, a 22-hectare residential project located in Bagumbayan, which has access to key cities like Makati, Pasig, and Mandaluyong. It was designed to maximize the area's natural features and provide as much as 70 percent open space for various recreational activities.

The object of constructing the bridge is to mitigate traffic congestion by encouraging and provide alternative routes to private vehicles going to Imelda Rodriguez and parts of Ortigas Ave. Extension.

Its traffic study commissioned by Ortigas...an average of 1,400 vehicles/pass by Calle Industria between 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 1,000 between 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. From Circulo Verde to Imelda Rodriguez, the average is 1,800 in the morning and 1,700 in the afternoon.

"The strength of Circulo Verde lies in its size. It is big enough to be massive planned...to create ideal conditions for efficient traffic flow, privacy for residents, and a very generous green space," says Joey Sarthou, general manager of the Real Estate Division of Ortigas & Co.

The first two towers of Circulo Verde—Mojave and Biste...are set for turnover this 2012, while the third and fourth towers are currently under construction. By June 2013, during the completion of the bridge, residents of the two towers should have already settled in.

Aside from the construction of the Circulo Verde Bridge, the enhanced master plan also calls for the relocation of retail spaces from each tower to a 10,000 sqm stand-alone retail center.

Circulo Verde...consist of an expansive open space that includes a central community park and other amenities such as basketball and tennis courts and swimming pools.

The development is made even more exclusive with the elevation of the residential towers to an expansive podium that is accessible only to residents.

"In keeping up with our tradition of delivering highly successful residential developments, Ortigas has named planned Circulo Verde, making the one-of-a-kind community even better while maintaining the promise of delivering an exclusive urban sanctuary," concludes Santos.

Ortigas & Co. is the company behind long-standing residential developments like the Greenhills Subdivision and Greenmeadows, as well as commercial centers like Greenhills Shopping Center and Tiendesitas. For more information, visit www.circuloverde.com.ph or contact 638-1641.

Bringing modern living to the next level in QC

From page B1

tion, the properties already feature a modern lounge with Internet access. There's also the recreation room, where residents can let their hair down and engage in chess, billiards, or table tennis matches with their friends.

Another AMEC project rumored for residents in the San Francisco, which is located on the Quezon City-Manila border. It is very near the university belt, allowing residents convenience access to schools in the area, as well as to medical institutions and commercial establishments. It is also easily accessible via private and public transportation and only a few minutes away from the MRT and LRT stations.

Just Residences also boasts of hotel-like amenities and WiFi-enabled common areas where residents can catch their telenovelas or lounge with their friends.

Accessible and cozy homes for yuppies

Perfect for young professionals and start-up families, Princeton Residences in New Manila is conveniently located near Gilmore's cyber hub and retail haven Greenhills and Araneta Shopping Center.

Princeton Residences sits right beside the LRT 2 Gilmore Station, which gives easy access to top educational institutions along Katipunan and University Belt.

Individuals exhausted from a day at school or work can find respite at Grana Residences, located beside 100 City North EDSA. Homeowners can rest easy with the variety of resort-style facilities such as elegant cabanas, clubhouse, swimming pools, badminton courts, jogging paths and landscaped gardens.

MEZZA 9 rises on the corner of Aurora Blvd. and Sta. Mesa.

PRINCETON Residences, a 48-storey condominium beside the LRT 2 in Gilmore Station.

Designed with the modern family in mind, Mezza Residences and Mezza II Residences boast of spacious living areas, high ceilings, and picture windows. Other amenities include outdoor function decks with private function rooms, adult and kiddie pools, playground area, garden with gazebos, and lanes and barbecue area.

Such are also conveniently located near SM City Sta. Mesa, providing homeowners with everything they need—from supermarkets and banks, to restaurants and dining—within easy reach.

With a variety of condo projects to offer, RREC surely has the perfect match to any buyer's Quezon City homeowner's need and lifestyle.

Casa de Sequioa project in Las Piñas commences

REYLAND Corporation has commenced construction of Avila, the first of a five-structure condominium project along Pedro de Diego Cera Avenue (formerly Quirino Avenue) in Las Piñas City.

Avila, a 54-unit residential condominium with Hispanic-inspired design as well as amenities for modern yet affordable living, will be ready for turnover to buyers by the end of 2013, according to Reyland officials.

Reyland aims to establish itself with quality developments of strategically-located and master-planned communities situated in key urban centers.

The brand promises of "building on commitment" represents Reyland's thrust to build affordable homes with uncompromising quality that are easily accessible, the company said.

Casa Sequoia will have the lowest floating units and cost-per-floor compared to competitors in the area. Ground breaking was held last Nov. 24.

The project includes the development of roof deck amenities such as a gazebo, children's playground and pocket garden. The enclave is provided with guarded entrance gate, 24-hour roving security personnel, and with fire safety amenities such as automatic fire sprinkler system and fire exits.

The site also includes CCTV cameras. The building features an entrance gate, elevator lobby and ground park level. Units are constructed with provisions for the installation of window-type air-conditioning, cable TV, telephone, washing machine, shower heater, and exhaust fan for kitchen and bathroom.

The units are ideal for families of overseas Filipino workers and young professionals.

THE Cada Sectional Sofa, elegant contemporary design made from genuine leather, high-resilient foam, with stainless steel legs.

THE Study 2-seater Fabric Sofa with bolster accent, upholstered with high quality removable fabric, high-resilient foam, solid wood frames and stainless legs.

MOMA (Modern Manila), a furniture and lifestyle shop in CW Home Depot located at Westgate Alabang, offers modern design furniture pieces and home accents that would surely liven any space. Get treated to a visual feast when you visit their showroom, as one will see lots of unique items from sofa to sectionals, coffee tables to dining tables, accent lounge chairs to small accessories.

Unlike other shops where furniture are lined-up in rows for display, MoMa takes pride in the easy and welcoming look of their store, which creates an imaginative look of how each piece of furniture would blend in your space.

Each furniture piece from MoMa is carefully picked-out to match the discerning taste of its clients. Not only are the pieces elegantly designed, but is combined with good craftsmanship and quality materials. So if you're looking for furniture with great design, quality materials at reasonable price, be sure to visit MoMa on the 2/F CW Home Depot, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Call (02) 846-5320, (02) 634-9288 or check modernmanila.multiply.com

Babolat gets fit with UAP QC through badminton tournaments

IN THE interest of promoting health and wellness as well as camaraderie with its partners in the construction industry, CW Home Depot joined United Architects of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter last February at Centro Atletico, Cubao for another day of getting fit and having fun as it took part in the UAP Quezon City 4th Invitational Badminton Cup. It was the second time the company joined UAP QC for a badminton event since the event entitled Fun Games: A Friendly Badminton Tournament which was also held at Centro Atletico. Fun Games was spearheaded by UAP Quezon City Chapter president architect Andrew "Bing" Castillo and CW Home Depot's Corporate Communications and Events manager Ms. Ana Paras. Invitational guests by other UAP chapters like Fort Bonifacio, Manila-Cavalry, Manila-Makati/Ma. QC-Cubao, San Juan-Mandaluyong, Manila Century, QC Mangan and QC-Central. CW Home Depot's very own managing director Ferdinand Co participated in the tournament, partnering with CWHP's architect Chino Ilanay, receiving the Gold Award for the Level A1 Category. Other gold winners were architect Josefita Mendoza with architect Vina Dimaandal for Level A1, architect Christian Ramay with CW Home Depot's Ferdinand Co for Level A2, architect Bonnie Cruz with architect Louie Tiñao for Level B and architect Jun Castillo with architect Cesar Bautista for Level C. While architect Luigi Bernardo with architect Richard Tan for Level A1, architect Allan Tongson with architect Carey Bernardo for Level A2, architect Raj Quintana with architect Joel Villaluna for Level B and architect Jun Bongat with architect Willie Torres for Level C, all won Silver.

CW Home Depot again partnered with UAP Quezon City's 4th Invitational Badminton Cup also led by architect King Castillo in cooperation with Babolat Philippines. The whole day badminton affair was once again enjoyed by architects from other UAP chapters. At the end of the mock to mock battle for the shuttle cock, the winners of the badminton court were architect Chito Ilanay with architect Ramon Francisco for Level A1, architect Jonathan Hernandez with Bong Castillo for Level A1, architect Bing Castillo with Natalia Sy for B1, architect Nathaniel Magsaysay with architect Jose Vibag for Level B1, architect Mel Ilanay partnering with architect Carlo Matabia for Level C1 and architect Derek Bing with architect Hiram Tortugan for Level C2. Winners received a variety of badminton products like rubber shoes, rackets and many others from Babolat Philippines. But more than the quest to become the invitational's champion, the architects who participated in the event along with CW Home Depot team enjoyed genuinely the camaraderie and camaraderie expressed during the game. CW Home Depot plans to hold more events like these in next year for its trade partners in the building and construction industry.

Both events were co-sponsored by Technosports, Inc., the exclusive distributor of Babolat products in the country. Since then, Babolat has become a very recognized brand in tennis and in badminton. In the Philippines, Babolat products are in all stores of Chris Sports, and in selected stores of Toby's, Planet Sports, JB Sports, Olympic Village and other sports equipment dealers. Among the Babolat products sold in these stores in the Philippines are tennis racquets, bags, strings, grips, dampeners, shoes, tennis balls and accessories, badminton racquets, bags, strings, grips, shuttlecocks and badminton shoes. Babolat is the oldest company specializing in racquet sports.

HANDING of plaque to major sponsor, CW Home Depot

4TH UAP QC Invitational Badminton Tournament

CW Home Depot managing director Ferdinand Co and architect Richard Dansalan (w/ runner-up on Level B)

TROPHIES, A2 Level winners architect Chino Ilanay and Ferdi Co

About Babolat

THE COMPANY has made strings since 1875, when Pierre Babolat created the first strings made of natural gut. Babolat continued to focus on strings until 1994, when it became a "total kervoil" company. That is, Babolat began producing racquet frames and selling them in Europe. It then moved on to Japan, and later to the USA in 2000. The popularity of Babolat racquets picked up quickly in North America and Europe, trademarked by the easily identifiable double lines across the strings of the racquet face, and along the racquet frame itself.

Founded in Lyon, France in 1875, Babolat has built its reputation by offering products at the forefront technology and by supplying equipments to generations of tennis and badminton champions who have won the most prestigious competitions. Babolat is easily identifiable by the "Double Line" logo. Today, Babolat products can be found in more than 100 countries, 20,000 sporting goods stores, and 20,000 pardeur clubs. Among its international endorsers include tennis champion Rafael Nadal. For more information about Babolat visit www.babolat.com

SPI's executive committee and key construction team break the ground-breaking ceremony for the project. Shown are (first row, from left) SPI marketing and training AVP Jerry Robin, Sales Director Elmed Rizal, Vice Pres. Virgilio Bacay (Tagaytay Construction), SPI finance and operations SVP Dennis Jose R. Chavez, SPI president Lawyer Harrison M. Paltengan, SPI sales operations AVP Hahda Sao Jose, guest, SPI operations AVP Isaias Bordio, Jr., SPI legal and M&A AVP Lawyer Basilio Mirasol, Jr. (back row from left), Engr. Roy Magno (JPVR Construction), Engr. Art Fajardo (AMOP Construction), Mario Manjares (Leimar Trading and Const.), Engr. Ronald Munsayac (JPVL Engineering and Const.), and SPI Pearl Branch sales manager Ben Magbuo.

Suntrust Sentosa Phase 3 groundbreaking

AS LUMINOUS the 'star' of the Empire with no other solutions, Suntrust Properties, Inc. (SPI), recently held ground at the Phase 3 of the Suntrust Sentosa project located near Balibago in Calamba, Laguna. Coinciding with the groundbreaking ceremony was the inauguration of a 16 foot likeness sculpture at the community's main entrance which is set to be another landmark and attraction in the province. The event was also highlighted by Laguna motorcade and a festive program and fun dance. Scattered Sentosa is a 21.6-hectare planned development featuring a Modern house theme. The community offers a wide range of residential choices including townhouses (quadruplex units) (duplex and detached), low-rise/mid-rise duplex homes (Lotus), house-and-lot units (Aya and Amore) and two-storey single detached homes (Heaven, Amaya and Mirasol). Sentosa is a nature-inspired, laid-back community that is convenient, accessible to key places in Calamba proper and to Metro Manila via the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX).

Zinnia Tower: Finding a piece of paradise in the north

WHILE everything may be uneven, the mission that's coming with the hustle and bustle of the metro is one that 66 million Filipinos dwell in. With residential conclaves once sprouting right next to commercial centers in our busy city streets, estates in locations are finding it harder and harder to have their peaceful nook in the city.

Recognizing this challenge, DMCI Homes is not to downplay a new tropical, thematic paradise within Quezon City especially for young married families and professionals looking for a place to call home in the north.

Touted as a peaceful retreat in EDSA Makati, Zinnia Towers is a high-rise residential development situated in a quieter side of the neighborhood, away from the metro' drive through the city's commercial centers, medical facilities and booming business districts. Its proximity to EDSA also gives it access to easier transportation into easily linking it to the other parts of the metro.

Tasked to a peaceful corner in EDSA Makati, Zinnia Towers is a high-rise residential development situated in a quieter side of the neighborhood, away from the metro' drive through the city's commercial centers, medical facilities and booming business districts. Its proximity to EDSA also gives it access to easier transportation into easily linking it to the other parts of the metro.

At Zinnia Towers, future residents will get to enjoy the best of both world, the peace and quiet of serenity home and the accessibility of city address.

Creating experiences

Zinnia Towers is another DMCI Homes' famed resort-inspired communal lot that redefined modern living in the metro. The project will offer future residents with exceptional the essential amenities and architecture that caters to the tastes of young discerning families.

Designed to be a family-oriented residential enclave, it is complete with all the facilities needed by families to spend quality time with each other within the confines of a safe and secure community.

A swimming pool complete with kiddie activities a lap pool and a kiddie pool sets the tone for this contemporary tropical-themed condominium village. Jogging paths along tropical gardens create an ideal setting for bonding moments with your loved ones. The Sky Lounge, with a picturesque view of the metro's skyline, can play host to intimate gatherings with friends while the Game and Quiz Room can make special occasions with the family. For the health buffs, a fully-equipped fitness gym can also be the perfect venue to meet the neighbors.

Through the different facilities available at Zinnia Towers, the relationships built and the camaraderie constructed can be what will make living a memorable experience.

Green architecture

The project will promote 'the Luzonwell' terminology in the Quezon City area. This design technology is a combination of DMCI Homes signature single-loaded hallways, floor-to-very high openings at the front and back of the towering building (also called the Fenêtre, and fenestration located on the left and right wing of every floor, which allows maximum natural light and airflow into every unit.

The community is composed of two high-rise buildings surrounded by lush greenscape. Following a contemporary tropical-themed architecture, the design uses concept utilized to create an airy and lush ambiance with elements of light, water and space which integrate a laid-back escape and modern sensibilities.

Modern condo living

Carrying a contemporary tropical design, this resort-inspired community's high-rise project of DMCI Homes in Manila EDSA, Quezon City will feature its own clubhouse. The residences is composed of a studio unit, one-, two-, and three-bedroom units and a gross floor area ranging from 25 sqm to 70 sqm. There will be about 1,302 units available with prices between P1.87 million to P6.37 million.

Condo living is made worry-free at Zinnia Towers with a trusted Property Management Office (PMO) to take charge of the everyday operations ensuring the security and maintenance of the property and its facilities.

DMCI Homes is the country's premier triple-A builder-developer that has created resort-modern condo living each their signature resort-inspired projects. With more 30 years of experience in construction and property development, DMCI has continued to offer value for money homes with world-class amenities and quality.

Zinnia Towers is a premium condo community project of DMCI Homes – a company of innovative builders and engineering experts that develop modern day living solutions for urban families. Each of its developments is built with world-class infrastructure to ensure the highest level of safety and quality.

Its corporate philosophy is anchored on a deep understanding that buying a home is more about investing in a better way of living. Zinnia Towers is the perfect validation of this timely proposition. Thanks to this feature-rich affordly located condominium residences can finally enjoy a more comfortable and meaningful way of life where they can feel truly connected to nature.

For inquiries on Zinnia Towers and other DMCI Homes projects, please call 524-8888 or visit the website: www.dmciholdings.com.

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Earth

Bring your reusable bags every Friday

ON KELLY Lily Pulitzer dress, Anne Klein chain bracelet and earrings, Lily Pulitzer cuff

Cristalle, Mika and Kelly make summer choices

THIS summer, Human's creates a new fashion story with three lovely women—Cristalle Henares, Mika Lagdameo Martinez and Kelly Misa.

They share their favorite looks from Human's new roster of labels.

Even with a beauty empire to manage, Henares will makes time to relish summer by going on trips with friends and family. And as all girls know, stylish accessories help make vacations unforgettable.

"Fuchsia and turquoise are my in-carries this season," says Henares. She goes for early summer staples as sexy tops and dresses.

"For casual days I love comfy shorts and capris, and I never forget my favorite pair of sunnies!"

Henares says it off with crushes style straw hat, accessories in cool shades, woven belts and a pair of slip-ons.

"Summer means getting into my favorite bikini, and getting a tan is much!" says Martinez.

A multitasking mavven with various ventures in fashion and business, Martinez has playful chooses that include laid-back white shorts and cotton tops in white and tan, and boxes of neon shades.

With kids to tow during summer getaways, Martinez makes sure she has comfortable yet chic pieces, from light dresses to tops in fun prints for that pop of color.

Model and Lifestyle columnist Kelly Misa looks forward to the sun, the sand and the waves each year. This summer, she plays with swirls of colors and prints for a chic look.

"My favorite summer pieces are dresses, tops or shorts in bold floral prints matched with chunky gold accessories," says Misa.

She has bright colors and dressy pieces in various combinations for that playful mood.

Human's has new collections from ready-to-wear labels Rachel Roy, Trina Turk, Laundry and Lilly Pulitzer.

There are various accessories to mix

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Cristalle, Mika and Kelly make summer choices

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and match from Tory Burch, Michael Kors, Anne Klein and Michael Kors.

H&M (Eastwood), Mikaili, Rustan's (Shangri-La, Rustan's Makati), Rustan's (Gateway, Rustan's Alabang Town Center and Rustan's Cebu for more fabulous selections this summer season.

ON CRISTALLE: Rachel Roy top and ring, Anne Klein earrings, J. Brand jeans and BCBG shoes

ON MIKA: FCUK top, Rachel Roy pants, Lilly Pulitzer bangles and BCBG shoes

ON KELLY: Lilly Pulitzer dress and alligator necklace, Anne Klein earrings and Rachel Roy rings

ON MIKA: Laundry dress, Mimco earrings and BCBG shoes

PASTEL

CLOCKWISE from top: leather shopper's bags in gray, cameo pink and white yellow; leather trench in cameo, leather shorts in black; leather moccasin in cream-blue exotic skin

Soft leather for shopper bags, loafers and ballerina flats

TOTE: new shopper bag is this season's highlight, an elegant, minimal piece bearing the distinctive mark of expert craftsmanship in its construction, made of exquisitely soft, natural calfskin, which appears almost translucent, allowing the color of the leather to shine through.

The House's famous Gancinno loafer and Ballerina have been reimagined in a variety of soft, natural leathers, and feature luxury details.

The collection also gives a new take on the iconic D-Ring - the new D. Evy'ling. This is a simple evolution of the original D-Ring design, rendering the style in precious materials. Created in the most beautiful leathers and suede in the highest levels of craftsmanship and technical expertise, the D-Ring is super-soft, with a natural finish and contemporary silhouette.

Ted's shoes, bags and accessories are exclusively distributed by Stores Specialties Inc. (SSI), available at the boutiques located in Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati, and Rustan's Power Plant Mall.

COLORS

CLOCKWISE from left: electric blue suede slims and dark blue suede bomber jacket; rose-colored suede ballerina shoes; women's python leather bags in magenta, turquoise, yellow and green

Modern vintage dressing–floral prints and laces in pastels and retro shifts

JESSICA'S Spring/Summer 2012 collection demonstrates the power of modern vintage dressing, inspired by the popular '60s and '70s retro era. It emphasizes the extensive use of vintage handicraft techniques, floral prints, romantic laces and textured fabrics throughout the season.

The easy mixing of these elements contributes to the uniqueness of the Jessica collections. Cleaner shapes and more structured silhouettes are the new directions. The contrasts of bold and soft, old and new elements dominate as well. Combined with Jessica's signature feminine details, a new modern vintage look is reinvented.

Strong reds and pinks together with versatile black and white kick-start the season. Flamingo, geranium, camellia and shell pink create a beautiful color palette during the transition from summer to spring.

In the Philippines, Jessica is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialties Inc. (SSI) and is located at Rustan's Makati, Fashion and Eastwood Mall.

CLEANER shapes and more STRUCTURED silhouettes are apparent in vintage-inspired collections

MODERN RETRO

FULL bloom of pastels takes center stage. New color pairings of yellow, palm green and jade balance well with candy pink, powder pink and orange.

(C) Showbiz at right, Raja Laurel

Resorting to resort wear to hit the global market

'Manila Wear' featured fashion with a tropical slant–and focused on the designs, not the designers

By Alex T. Vergara

IT WAS perhaps the first time a local fashion history that clothes and accessories were bigger than their designers. Eyeing the global market, 23 of the country's top apparel and accessories designers joined the event: "Manila Wear" show at SMDC Grand Showroom, Pasay City.

Billed as a celebration of Philippine designs and tropical lifestyle, the show was the main feature in Manila FAME's fashion component. Each designer presented a five-piece "tropical wear" collection that combined creative uses of indigenous materials and techniques with imported fabrics and accessories for the high-end resort market.

Apart from doing away with conventional runway in favor of raised platforms, where models either stood or sat still, the organizers, led by Stone Fish-based designer and event curator Jesse Nuñez, simply allowed the items instead of their designers to speak for themselves.

Promotional materials for guests and buyers at the entrance were flyers containing the designers' sketches and brief info about them and their collections.

Many in the audience familiar with their work were also left guessing as to who did what, as most of the designers had to work outside their signature looks and comfort zones, incorporating local fabrics like dyed piña and abaca with more conventional ones like cotton and jersey.

Raja Laurel over, homegrown resins fabrics fashioned into coats, wraps and tops with sequined and tasseled pieces.

Embroidery and beadwork

Other designers such as Jeny Balmoris and Randy Ortiz incorporated Philippine style embroidery and beadwork in their collections. The show also featured the works of accessories designer Lenny Ilunga and brand Papa, and shoe

REMEMBERED

WORLD-CLASS accessories from some of the country's best local accessories designers

Resorting to resort wear to hit the global market

From page C1

designers Mayo Custodio.

Apart from following Natori's guidelines, Cortes's main considerations were pricing and producing viable pieces. He used embroidery to help the country's artisans and to make each piece look "expensive," he said.

None of the designers was confined to indigenous materials, silhouettes and techniques.

"The main point of this undertaking is not to do a Filipiniana collection, but to showcase Harry Natori that would appeal to a global market," said Cortes.

Not a first-timer for luxury yet contemporary silhouettes, JC Buenaflor, who used mostly shears and cotton, and Dennis Lustico, who followed Natori's color forecast by dying their fabrics to catch bold shades in saffron, sea-wash yellow turquoise, avocado and lemon.

"I'm quite comfortable doing tailored pieces," said Buenaflor. "The real challenge for me was working in new materials I'm not very familiar with."

While Buenaflor drew inspiration from his well-heeled denizens of gated seaside communities close, Lustico, who also did tailored and draped separates using pleats, corsets and shoes, channeled Lisa Simpson's retro.

"For me, respecting material like pina without compromising the draped and relaxed look, which was part of my vision, was the challenge," said Lustico.

Soriano, who did worry with color, had a different set of challenges to deal with in fashioning updated versions of the boxing, using trickier fabrics, materials, and treatments like embroidery beadwork and soiaoli.

"I've always found it difficult to work with colors," he said. "It's a good thing they allowed me to stick to a muted palette."

No fanfare

None of them seemed to mind that the show did away with the usual introduction of designers. There was also talk that the designers were first asked to do seven pieces, but Ramos allegedly stepped in and brought down the number to five.

A turn at fashion exhibit more than a show, as guests were encouraged to mix up about the pieces on the mannequins. As each cluster of models wearing a designer's collection exited a platform after 10 minutes or so, another group entered the scene.

The presentation went on for almost two hours until it was time for Ramos to come down the designers.

The other designers—Inno Soriano, Monsito Rubio, Cesar Gaupo, OJ Hofer and Jojo Llorente (for apparel), and Bryan Allison, JC Adriana Iribal, Jun Arriaga, Joel Escobar, Lulu Tan-Gan, Aubade Lazatin, Joyce Makinlay and Patricia Ramos-Diaz for fashion accessories.

In a press conference held days before the show, Ramos expressed his desire to reintroduce the Filipino fashion aesthetic first to a global market. It is hoped that the branding effort will eventually benefit not only the evening's designers, but will also trickle down to the country's weavers and artisans. She encouraged designers to focus on pieces that would appeal to the high-end resort market.

"I'm not saying we shouldn't do suits," she said. "But I believe it is in resort wear where we have the materials and design edge to be ranked globally."

JOEY Soriano

CLOCKWISE, from above: Cesar Gaupo; Gerry Sorio; JOJO Makinlay; OJ Hofer

DENNIS Lustico

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Everybody On Folio13

HP Folio 13

MANILA, Philippines – Members of the media and merchant partners of Hewlett-Packard Philippines had the rare opportunity to be the first to see and touch HP's newest Ultrabook, the Folio 13. The event was held recently at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati City.

The HP Folio 13 is the global technology company's newest Ultrabook offering, shown here with Winsie Wong, Albert Tinteo, Kathy Wong, Intel National Sales Manager Shane Dickenson (above) and the Folio 13.

The poolside event was formally opened with an introduction talk by HP country general manager Albert Tinteo, who gave a short overview of the laptop and HP mobile computing. Winsie Wong, Intel Technologies' Business Development Manager enlightened the attendees on the Folio 13's most noteworthy features and its positioning. In an unexpected twist, HP PSG Consumer Notebooks' Market Development Manager, Kathy Wong introduced the Philippine National Synchronized Swim Team to further showcase the new Folio's features through a dazzling water routine.

At the much-awaited raffle, two lucky winners from the media and merchant partners got to take home their own Folio 13.

One of the lucky winners during the Folio 13 media launch takes home a new Folio 13 unit, in the photo with (L-R) HP PSG MK Silvan Alvarez, HP PSG Commercial Notebooks Market Development Manager, Albi Narciso and HP PSG Consumer Notebooks Market Development Manager, Kathy Wong.

The Folio 13 is the top global technology firm's newest models computer offering, featuring class leading battery life lasting up to 9.5 hours coupled with high performance hardware. As the ideal laptop for business owners and professionals who are always on the move, the Folio 13 is powered with the latest Intel® Core™ i5 processor, with a maximum memory capacity of 4GB.

The Philippine National Synchronized Swim Team strikes a pose with the HP logo during the HP Folio 13 launch held recently.

LEAP ahead with PSG PRO.

2bU LIFESTYLE

14-year-old wins Tony Blair writing contest

De La Salle Zobel student places in blogging competition by writing about faith and doubt

THE FACE vs. Faith, "Faith Friend" blogging competition by the Tony Blair Faith Foundation has selected 200 article entries, all of which were read and evaluated, and only 20 entries from experts young students' blogs were chosen as winners.

These personal stories of young people include reflections on faith (or the lack there of), as well as meeting stories of friendship across boundaries.

Darlene Hannah Jane H. Natanauan, a 14-year-old student from De La Salle Santiago Zobel School and a regular student contributor for 2bU, has been selected as one of the winners for her "Ni Uniwersidad Unconsulary" article. She

TONY Blair Faith Foundation Blog selected 20 entries by young writers.

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Bohemian belle

Strut your way to boho fashion with wedges, long skirts, tribal prints and an urge to layer, layer, layer!

Layer fever

Boho fashion is never complete without layering: wear an interesting jacket over a plain top, or a minimalist jacket over a detailed top.

Sheer gold tank and leather jacket, both from Mango; blue jersey skirt, Jollybean; butterfly shoulder bag, Aldo; belt, Terranova; cork wedges, Su Hill

Get loose and floppy

An assortment of flowing separates clinched at the waist and topped off with a hat gives you the classic boho look.

Striped tunic tank, and bib-at fringed hem sweater, both from Forever21; gray maxi skirt, Jollybean; brown floppy hat, Accessorize; brown suede belt, Springfield; wedges, Su Hill

Detail by detail

Avoid monotony—mix clothing in the same fabric, and break the pattern through details like fringe and prints.

Lace cutout chiffon top, Jollybean; blue printed chiffon maxi skirt and fringe vest, both from Forever21; patent rockocork wedges, Steve Madden

Color splash

Going boho need not be dull: inject a pop of color to the usual neutral palette.

Tribal print top, Jollybean; denim vest and yellow chiffon midi skirt with belt, both from Forever21; hat, Call It Spring; olive green maxi satchel, Springfield; black wooden heel sandals, Steve Madden

Texture medley

Mix and match various textures like satin, fur and pleats, for a more interesting ensemble.

Tribal print top, Jollybean; cropped vest top, Bayo; black pleated maxi skirt, Diesalo; blue fur belt, Stradivarius; brown bowler bag, Springfield; orange satin slingbacks, EMU

Stylist: Jessica Ramos
Hair and makeup: Jessica Ramos
Photographer: Jeffrey Salvador
Assistant: Jeffrey Salvador
Model: Jessica Ramos

14-year-old wins Tony Blair writing contest

From page D1

writes about her faith, her doubts, and the different kinds of people who have different views and perspectives on faith.

Here is her winning piece.

"Encountering uncertainty"
By Stefanie Antonio
Grade 8 - Salazar

My faith. I am a Roman Catholic. By belief, however, I consider myself to be in the middle of a steady sense of faith and a steady sense of disbelief. Being this way enables me to a position within the gray area between a firmly set atheism. Why do you ask, am I like this? I simply find it difficult and irrational to place my entire faith on someone, or something, whose existence I am unsure of. I cannot close my eyes and say, hear, or feel God the way others claim to be able to.

I cannot simply say, "I believe," and be a hundred percent sure of it – although, in all honesty, I admire those who say that they feel the presence of God, who have in them a faith so solid that even as I express my doubt, their faith continues to remain strong. I believe, partially, coupled with a layer of doubt, which in turn leads a part of me to disbelieve, as well.

I disbelieve because I cannot fully grasp the concept of God, and usually I am told by some of my peers that it is because I am thinking too rationally, trying to find an explanation for every single thing. But I want to believe, and that is basically why I do not totally within the gray area, and I search for the answers to my questions and the conclusions to my doubts.

Open-mindedness

Concepts have many sides, and to be able to truly understand an idea, one must be open to every perspective. In faith, belief and religion, there are two polar threats and atheism. In fully grasp and understand the completeness and diversities of religion, one must witness both sides. Open-mindedness is the key to knowledge, after all, and knowledge is a book that you must read from cover to cover.

Don't stop at one or two chapters by simply exposing yourself in the best perspectives or sides of things; be open to all of those dissimilars! Only then will you be able to comprehend a certain concept and consider an opinion on it.

I have a good number of friends who don't believe in God, or believe that he cannot be found, or that his existence cannot be proven. Some of them are atheists, some are agnostics, and others choose not to label themselves at anything. These people are far from the stereotypical "man-in-layered" who spew hatred and irrational arguments against God's existence; these people are calm, sensible, open-minded and understanding.

They're very intimidating; they defend themselves well, and explain their beliefs even better. I was happy to open my mind and listen to their beliefs, and despite their subtlety and strength, it did not cause me to become a non-believer at all. I easily comprehended both sides of theism and atheism, yet I still remain in the middle.

Sometimes, I am struck with so much doubt brought on from all the things I've discovered, read and heard, and my faith shakes. Faith confuses me. But other times, I am uplifted by that faith that remains strong within me, and I would end up marring, believing a little more than usual.

However, in the end, I always remain in the middle, in that gray area between atheism and theism, asking questions and searching for answers like a curious little girl who is never satisfied by the simple vague and mysterious answers that the world is giving her.

But I believe that wisdom and understanding only comes to those with open minds, and the answers are only given to those who are truly dedicated and passionate in their pursuit of the truth.

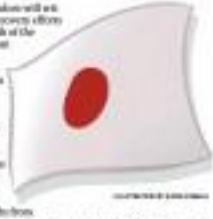
I've been told many times before by my religious peers that those who search for God end up with stronger faith than those who have turned him from the very beginning. And so, I choose to search. I choose not to simply say "I believe," like how most of them say, but to also couple it with the reasons why I do.

I tell one it all with conviction, as one so believes it. I remain in between to this day, but I am happy with my unassuming desire to learn and unveil more of what I do not know, and what I am aware of. Curiosity may have "killed" the cat, but it has eight more lives to spare.

To learn more about Face to Faith, visit http://facetofaithforum.org

Young Pinoy . . .

From page D4



youth ambassadors will witness Japan's recovery efforts in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake that struck Japan's Tohoku region on March 11, 2011. Also included in their itinerary is a homestay program, as well as various cultural activities for interaction with Japanese youths from different educational institutions. Through the Answers Programme, the participants will glean insights from Japan's rapid economic recovery efforts, as well as build friendships with their Japanese peers.

The Answers Programme is organized by the government of Japan through the JICC of the Embassy of Japan as well as the Japan International Cooperation Center, in close cooperation with the National Youth Commission of the Republic of the Philippines.

One big neighborhood

At IDEA camp, young people from different Southeast Asian countries interact—and learn more about themselves

By Jean Ramon Bega
Contributor

I NEVER FOUND myself writing about last year's International Debate Education Association (IDEA) camp in Chiang Mai. I didn't talk much about it on facebook, either.

The photos I took for two weeks remained archived in my computer, but the memories continue to overwhelm me.

Chiang Mai strangely felt like home (Davao) to me. It was where I discovered so many things about myself, and the things I have in common with my neighbors in Southeast Asia.

While studying debate, journalism and video production, I made awesome friends—15 people of my age from Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Indonesia.

It turns out, we did have a lot of things to common: the food that we eat, the TV shows that we watch, the music that we listen to, and all the little experiences that we go through every day as young people.

We bonded over Thai food, journalism exercises (a field trip to a radio station in Chiang Mai University included), debate, video shooting and late nights listening to music or watching Cartoon Network.

Some days in the camp felt a little surreal to me, maybe because everything around me was overwhelming: I was miles away from home, studying the things I love, and amazing friends were opening my mind to the idea that Southeast Asia is now a small neighborhood.

The IDEA camp in Chiang Mai changed my life in ways I never thought possible.

This year, it will be held in the Philippines; home feels warmer and closer now.

The Youth in 21st Century: Debating and Producing Media Workshop 2012 is calling for applications for this year's camp on June 10 to July 7. It will be organizing a series of two-week workshops that combine debate, discussions and analysis of the media's role in society with hands-on training on how to create professional and insightful media projects.

Application deadline is on April 15. Only 46 applicants will be selected to participate.

For more information, visit http://www.idebate.org/youthmedia/?page_id=364. Visit http://youseadapan.com for stories by young people around Southeast Asia.

THE AUTHOR became friends with people to age from Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Indonesia.

BEING dwarfed by an elephant

DURING the two-week camp, participants learn the fundamentals of debate, journalism and video production

THE AUTHOR (center) turns out to have a lot of things in common with his constituent Vietnamese friends.

APRIL marks the start of spring and it is when the country's beloved cherry blossoms are in full bloom.

Young Pinoy ambassadors to Japan get pre-departure orientation

A HUNDRED STUDENTS from various universities converged at the Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC) Multipurpose Hall last April 9 for their Pre-Depart ure Orientation prior to their journey to Japan as Philippine Youth Goodwill Ambassadors under the Japan East-Asia Network for Students and Youths Connect Program.

In a joint statement released by both the government of Japan and the government of the Republic of the Philippines last September, the significance of youth exchanges were emphasized, with Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda stating that Japan will invite 400 Filipino college students to Japan this year as "Philippine Youths Goodwill Ambassadors."

The government aims to equip participants with basic knowledge for their stay in Japan. Organized by JICC, it gave the participants salient points regarding the culture of the Japan Programme, as well as an introduction to Japanese culture. The first batch left last April 10 and will return to the Philippines on April 18. Minister Motohiko Kato, deputy chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan, delivered an inspiring speech to the young ambassadors.

The participants comprise the first batch of Philippine Youths Goodwill Ambassadors out of a total of 400 participants who have been invited to visit Japan for nine days

2bU LIFESTYLE

Take your free time and weekends in the city from blah to blast

10 fun things to do in Manila

By Lyna Marie Angeli Briseño
Student contributor, University of the Philippines Diliman

MAKE THE most of your precious weekends and free weekdays to try out new activities with family and friends. In-room 2bU rounds up 10 new things to try and places to visit to turn your free time from blah to blast.

So why don't you:

● Catch theater-in-a-backpack in action?

Can you fit a treehouse, stage lighting, and a social norm in a backpack? The Sipat Lawin Ensemble (SLE) does just that, crowding their troupe wings as they promote community theater with public performances around the country.

SLE is composed of graduates of the theater program at the Philippine High School for the Arts. Watch them bring drama and social relevance to the grassroots or an open space nearest you.

(Call 0921-2059999, or like Sipat Lawin Ensemble on Facebook.)

● Gather your friends for maximum lowering contemplation?

When Neil Patrick Harris auditioned for the role of Barney Stinson in "How I Met Your Mother," his screen test involved a lowering scene where he executed a

> TURN TO E2

Less is now even more

LEVI'S Water<Less jeans remain familiar to the brand's classic American style and effortless cool.

WATER<LESS jeans have reduced water usage up to 96 percent

Fold/let your jeans in cold water to make it last longer

Even jeans get green, as Levi's new line uses less water in its finishing process

By Paul Albert Palmero
Contributor

THIS SUMMER, while playing in water is on everyone's agenda, it's the exact opposite for Levi's. Its eco-friendly philosophy stems from its commitment to upholding traditional techniques in making jeans. For this season, aspects of ethical awareness and sustainability are found in Levi's breakthrough Water<Less products.

Levi's Water<Less jeans remain faithful to the brand's classic American style and effortless cool. As its finishing process turns green, its nostalgic spirit takes a step forward in promoting innovative chic. By saving water through fashion, wearing your conscience never felt—and looked—this good.

"Levi's Water<Less is a platform that looks at manufacturing in a different way. It's really about looking at design in our enormous circle to ensure we reduce the impact on the environment," says Gili Asch, Levi's senior vice president of global merchandising and design.

What's highly innovative about this move is the realization of how much you could do with less—seriously. An average pair of jeans uses up 42 liters of water in the finishing process. Levi's Water<Less products, on the other hand, have reduced water usage by up to 96 percent for some styles in the same process. Since then, 1.5 million Water<Less products have saved up to 1.75 million liters of water.

Known for its relentless pioneering and innovative spirit, Levi's has partnered with Waterorg in helping raise awareness on vital water issues, most especially concerning the very water we drink. Last March 22, a new interactive campaign, "Go Water<Less," has been launched with the mission of providing clean drinking water to those in need. Details of the campaign may be viewed at www.levi.com/waterless.

Also launched is the brand's "Care Tag for Our Planet" campaign, changing Levi's jeans product care tags to include environmental impact reduction instructions of washing less and with cold water, line drying and donating to charity, no longer needed.

Fashion's ability to influence is without limits. As the industry sets its sights on a better future, Levi's will continue to share its innovations so cool, casual style that's original and groundbreaking.

Levi's Water<Less products are available in Levi's stores nationwide.

THE WATER<LESS jeans are available in a number of styles

My style

Fashion's rules of the street

Text and photos by Rowan Capili

Michael Franks

"I get my style inspirations from magazines like Garage and GQ, and bloggers. My shirt is from Oxygen, pants by Bonbonjour, shoes by Andrew Arthur's and accessories by H&M."

Kate Ballao

"My style must-have is denim shorts. I will not wear leather leggings!"

Top and pants, Zara; belt, H&M; watch, Michael Kors; ring from a bazaar

Kaye Aweste

"My loving saleswoman leads me to experiment on my dressing up. I'm a big fan of prints."

Tailored jacket, top, Pinay Necessities; shorts, $21; shoes, Cobbler; cuff, Tendency; necklace, Call It Spring; bag, Bazaar bags

Andie Aguirre

"Today, I built my outfit around my sandals. I like flats because I'm very tall."

Top and shirt, Zara; belt, sandals and watch, Michael Kors; cuff, Tory Burch

Andrew Schaeffer, 28

"I'm still in that experimental stage when it comes to personal style."

Ripped top and pants, Oxygen; glasses, sandals, Wade

Miko Carreon, 19, DLS-CSB

"I've seen some really daring male fashionistas, yet it still hasn't made me a fan of super short shorts and skirts for men!"

Top and bikini, Topman; pants, Bench; shoes, Forever21; necklace, Gil Accessories

Andrew Baldwin, 19, DLS-CSB

"Best way to dress in Manila is as your desire!"

Shirt and shoes, Oxygen; shoes, Wade

Kristoff Tiaoan

"The most versatile piece every guy should own is a blazer or a jacket."

Shirt, Moft; sweater, Hobbits Man; jacket and pants, Topman; boots, Skechers; watch, Topselle

Georgina Wilson now knows better than to put toothpaste on a pimple

By Nina Mark M. Salido
Contributor

BELIEVE IT or not, stunning model and TV host Georgina Wilson also gets zits, just like you and me. In fact, when she was in high school, she went to class with a blob of toothpaste covering a pimple on her cheek—and had it on that whole day. As in from 7:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Looking back at that now laughable moment, Wilson says, "How could I have been so ignorant?"

Sadly, a lot of Filipinos are ignorant when it comes to facial skin care. These rebel Wilson discovered values, after being chosen as the new face of Garnier's Pure Active line, she did an informal survey about people's facial skin care habits and regimens. Wilson asked teenagers and people she would meet on the street and she was surprised to find out that some of them are just soap—body soap, to be specific—for their face. She couldn't believe it.

"I really realized there's such a big need for Filipinos to learn more about facial care," she says.

GEORGINA Wilson wants to educate Filipinos, especially teenagers and teenagers, on facial skincare

Basic facial routine

The guys from Garnier agree. Garnier Philippines general manager Amraal de Bengal, had shown that when they did a study in the country, they found out that Filipinos' facial care routines are very basic. "They usually connect themselves with what they have," he says.

Some even admitted that they were not happy with the products they're using but have no choice but to continue using them because they're being forced to. They also found out that the Philippines has the lowest number of years of facial care products in the entire Southeast Asian region.

With the launch of Garnier's new Pure Active line, Filipinos now have something new to help them address six common problems: pimples, whiteheads, oiliness, enlarged pores, impurities and unevenness. The line is composed of a facial wash (that has 2 percent purifying salicylic acid, which controls oil and cleans pores) and Retinol Reflex (which is from blueberry extracts and aids in repairing and regenerating the skin to avoid creating) and a pimple roll-on that dries out zits and reduces the appearance of scars/spots.

The brand's new line aims to educate Filipinos, especially the teen-preteen teenagers, about facial skincare as well.

Big campaign

According to Wilson, they originally weren't supposed to do a big campaign. "But I think they realized the necessity to educate Filipinos," she says.

"I think the way that the campaign came about, the reason, it wasn't to sell right away products. I think it was to educate. It became a love to me because it's more than just selling a product; it's educating the Filipinos. I've always been very passionate about education, and that's why I'm project manager somewhere na."

Having zero clear skin means the world to a lot of people, including Wilson. After all, it is your face that people first see, and having blemishes affects one's self-esteem. That is why she takes good care of her skin. "I don't wake up with perfectly clear skin. I sit naili-lutan ko din something about it," she admits. "Nothing comes easy. You really have to take time to take care of your skin. It's a constant routine that you have to make."

QUIZ NITA? on school with a blob of toothpaste on her pimple.

10 things to do in Manila

See page E2

dive well, supplied a choir and drummed into a well. OSS creatives loved it. For the ultimate beer tag experience, gather your friends and Light up your game face at the Retro level! Love Maxx Arena in Centris Walk, Quezon Avenue Listen up and

(Centris Walk is at Edsa corner Quezon Avenue, www.ayala.com.ph/centriswalk, 8.30.)

• Make your own seafood boil?

The time for a new breed of personalized gift-ends here. What's not to love about crafted cuisine? They're cuddly, endearing, and 100 percent huggable. At Animated, you get to choose from their line of furry buddies, and customize the amount of cotton stuffing (with a lifelong guarantee of love replenishment), scent, clothes and accessories. It even comes in a box with its own birth certificate.

(Animated is at Ben Hines High Street, Shoppes La Mall, Trinoma, Festival Mall, Robinsons Galleria and SM Mall of Asia.)

• Go on a nighttime organic food trip?

Get members to go on a Friday or Saturday night? Head over to the Food Street Night Market at Centris Walk, Quezon Avenue from 6 p.m. 12 midnight. Feast on your senses on the country's best organic products. Do the local agriculture industry and your health a favor, and take home a Sundance Diaries while you're at it!

• Picnic on indie films at the UP Film Institute?

Besides the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the UP Film Institute (UPFI) is the only establishment that enjoys screening from movie councils. This allows them to screen a wide range of movies, ranging from local independent films to foreign cinematic classics. Join the mailing list of the UPFI at upfilminstitute@yahoogroups.com to keep tabs on screenings and other film-related activities.

• Learn more about your currency?

When six cents is shells, gold necklaces and paper bills have to commence? They were all used to currency in the Philippines, and are all on exhibit at the History Museum of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Relive your history classes from an economic viewpoint and learn how to roll an authentic bill from a counterfeit. Admission is free. Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas is along Roxas Boulevard, near Pablo Ocampo Street (formerly Vito Cruz), Across Manila Yacht Club.

• Channel your inner daredevil at Kamps Ilac in the Quezon City Memorial Circle?

Make like Peter Parker climbing as much the metro pass for in a bike as you who your way down the alpine. For more of an adrenaline rush, scoot over to Circle of Fun and have a go at the Sea Dragon and Wild Wind attractions.

• Heat up your buffet experience?

Tired of the usual barbecue fare? Get your office barkada together for an all-you-can lunch or dinner at Tidara. The restaurant boasts of Japanese, Cantonese, Korean, and Filipino cuisine and a range of desserts. Each table is equipped with its own smokeless grill, so you can cook your grub just the way you want it. Prices are at P498 on weekdays, P580 on weekends, P288 for children, P65 for honorable dudes. Picky eaters, be warned—a leftover price of P999 awaits the weak of stomach.

Yakimix branches are located at Greenbelt 5, Robinsons Ayala, SM Mall of Asia, Festival Mall, Trinoma and Tutuban.

• Learn history on foot?

They say you can tell a lot about people by walking a mile in their shoes. You can tell so much by checking out shoes on display at the Marikina Shoe Museum. Take a stroll down history lane and see up close the footwear of important people, including presidents. Rest ladies (you will find 749 pairs here) and da Marcos heels), dignitaries and national heroes. Entrance fee is P20 for Marikina residents and P40 for non-residents.

• Channel your inner model?

Relive the glory of Sto-Print and take it to the next level with Adult at Print at Tomorrow Trinoma. Step into the photobooth and pose for as many as six shots, with the option of using a high or low lens and having a maximum of four of what lines your way. Decorate your shots with a touch pen and adjust the photo layout to your liking. One turn at Adult of Wind costs P140 on a Tomorrow Points card.

ONE OF Katrina Pallon's paintings

Colorful collaboration

TO SAY THAT Katrina Pallon and Raul "Pugi" Roco Jr.'s upcoming exhibit in P.Y.M. Gallery, CD ave. Kia, Kamuning, QC, entitled "Tattoo My Colors" is merely an exploration of colors would be an understatement.

While the works might, at one can immediately glean from the titles, be Pallon colors, Pallon and Roco's styles reveal their differing perspectives when it comes to chromatic expressions. One notices how the former's compared approach contrasts with the latter's more literal but predictive use.

This is not to say that the vol or limitations imposed by Pal-

> 'Tattoo My Colors' exhibit is an exploration of colors by Katrina Pallon and Raul Roco Jr.

lon on himself diminish her ability as an artist—the materialist in her focuses on the details to mood. Her penchant for grim, dreamlike scenarios serve as the perfect backgrounds for her haughty, beguiling female characters, creating phantasmagorical pieces as haunting as they are captivating.

Roco's artworks, meanwhile, are more about vivid, surreal landscapes which are rife with abstract forms and shapes. His ceramics are explosions of color, with arboreal outgrowths juxtaposed to each painting depicting the pervasive nature of life. The hints of hues combined with the organic appendages can perhaps be explained by Roco's artistic vision: "My roots are rubber, and my branches are words, which stands me the test that I am today."

The first collaboration between the two artists, "Tattoo My Colors," expects its viewers to explore art from both ends of the spectrum.

The show will open on April 14 and will run until April 28. cocktails will be served at the opening, 7 p.m. Aside from this, there will be performances in poetry and music from Rocky Francia, Misty Telegra, Kristi Damarillo, Derek Sandoval, Charmi Tiamzon, Nomzo Jose Tandiocson and Gardenia.

There will be Art Talks on April 21 from 6 to 8 p.m., and on closing night, April 28, there will be live art creation by Jo Sketchy's Anti-Art School Manila.

So to all lovers of art, music and fashion, come to an evening filled with all of them, from beginning to end.

My style

Photographed By

Gerard Perez, 19, DLS-CSB

"Style tip: always consider the fit of the clothes."

Top, Aeropostale; jacket, Forever21; shorts, Topman; shoes, Rockport; studs, Rayban; bracelet and necklace, Penthouse

Ellentine Lau, 19, ADMU

"I look at Look-book for style inspiration. Not a fan of ribbons or lace, just too girly for me."

Top, Pinkaholic; shorts, Pink Rhodium; bag, Candybliss Garibol; boots, Dee Marinelli; Hat, Shoe-bi

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Reawaken your cells to blast cellulite

New treatment uses mechanical stimulation of the skin surface to speed up metabolism of target cells

By Cheche V. Moral

CELLULITE is a fact of life that 95 percent of women must contend with, however hard they exercise or diet, and no matter how naturally skinny they are.

An anthropological explanation is that historically, women stayed in caves while their men hunted for days. The women's bodies' reaction to this was to store the fat in certain parts, notably in the breast area (thighs), tummy, hips, buttocks, and down to the knees.

It seems that even after thousands of years of evolution, the body still thinks womankind borrows in caves, hopelessly waiting for the men to bring in the kill, such that fats in certain areas of the female body—particularly those lumpy, dimply teenage pest-like clusters called cellulite—exist burning. Until, by the way, however outspoken they become, men don't develop cellulite.)

Modern medicine and technology propose varied solutions to this pesky female problem, though whether they work or not is conversation.

At Marie France, a leading weight loss and slimming center, one of the suggested solutions is called zelu+ SLIM, the latest improvement on the previous Endermologie program the center began offering in 1998. Endermologie is the science of manipulating the tissue cellular activity through mechanical stimulation that claims both therapeutic and cosmetic results.

It was developed in 1986 by a French company called LPG Systems, and has since been widely used in over 100 countries.

The new zelu+ SLIM machine, exclusive to Marie France, is also by LPG Systems. Connected to the machine are motorized rotating rollers that are applied on the skin to stimulate cellular activity.

Recalcitrant

Dr. Cielo Montoya, chief scientist of LPG Systems, who was in town to introduce zelu+ SLIM at the grand opening of Marie France in Eastwood, (10/F, MDC SM Building, Eastwood Ave., Libis, QC; tel. 4942629), said the machine is devised not just to get rid of cellulite, but also to "remodel" tissues damaged by liposuction and hormonal disorders, pregnancy and menopause (loose, sagging skin), as well as treat circulation problems and water retention.

"There are three components of cellulite: fat cells, water retention and fibrosis," in the abnormal development of excess fibrous tissue as a result of inflammation, Montoya explained. "There's also a genetic component. This technology can work on all these components."

Zelu+ SLIM is simply pressure or mechanical stimulation, Montoya said. "With mechanical stimulation, you're sending the skin surface a message or targets cells, adipose stem and fibroblasts to improve their metabolism. You awaken the cells; for the fat cells, you improve the lipolysis, and for the fibroblasts, you improve the production of collagen and elastin."

As heroic, it stimulates a reaction from the blood and lymphatic circulation, so the result isn't simply aesthetic. In fact,

ANY patient age 18 and above is an ideal candidate for zelu+ SLIM.

MATTHEW Knowles, Cheryl Tio

ROSANNA Tesoro, Carol Mashup, Pepito Albert

CRIS Bolivia, Alice Eduardo, Cris Albert, Lindy Ley, Sheila Romero, Small Lavelle, Sari Yap

MANNY Montilla, Inigo Zobel, Anthony Garcia, Mikee Romero

GINA Alcocer, Sandra Puritia, Vicky Soriano, Marieta Zobel, Ana Egana

CHITO and Ana Gotesporto

SHEILA Bermudez and husband Mikee Romero heads the star-studded Polo March during the First Romero Polo Club Cup.

Polo- and VIP-watching at the Polo Club

One of Oak Knoll's top A-list couples, Mikee Romero and Sheila Bermudez Romero, delivered with style the First Romero Polo Cup at the Manila Polo Club, dubbings. Namedropping from the social registry, Irish politicians to business leaders, watched a race event that celebrated high society's favored sport—polo!

This inaugural polo match saw Team Red win over Team Blue, headed by Romero scored the winning team's goals, scoring his viddy stylish entry into the "Sport of Kings." And he was quickly welcomed by players and supporters, especially since he has been a longtime supporter of Philippine sports. In fact, heads the Philippine National Shooting Association, to boot, dubbings.

The final tally registered 4-2, as polo-ist extraordinaire Anthony Garcia, Hugo Zobel and Manuel Montilla led Team Red to victory. Montilla scored two quick goals, followed by teammates Garcia and Zobel, who each tallied a goal each.

The referees, looking cool in luxe resort wear, signaled the throw-in-the-ball, Champagne and beer flowed as Romero Team Mike and Sheila Romero's Oracle Hotel and Residences were flowed during the sports bash.

Rep. Martin Romualdez and Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez, Philippine representative Pamela Bianca Zubiri were visibly pleased over the First Romero Polo Cup.

Polo-watching were hotel owners newly-weds Rep. Roman Romulo and Councilor Shalani Zobel-Soi; Gregory Araneta, Monique Yoda, Audrey Zobel, among others paisleygon.

Adding flavor to the glitzy game was a Polo-ful & Bling fashion show and an awarding ceremony with Manila Polo Club president Ronald Manila handing out the trophies and Cup to the winners.

Well, dubbings, that's what an afternoon of Polo-watching is all about, n'est ce pas?

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Mauricio Arcadio
Photos by Alex Van Hagen
powered by MIKE MAC SUPER

LAURO and Grace Ilaja with children

DR. AVIS Tan, Nilo Romero

HONIDA Romero and husband Bernd dela Cruz

DR. AVIS and Dr. Z Tan

ANNETTE Green, Ani Bautista

GERMAN Ambassador Dr. Joachim Haidam, Van Laack CEO Christian Van Daniels, Jolanta Kos

BABY Cruz and daughter Trina Cruz Bautista

ZUELLIG president Rustgard Juntus, PCCE Commissioner Andy Bautista, CAFS Marcos president Pole Jang

DENNIS Valdes, Antonio Gokongwei Jr., Gigi Maloneta

DAVID Cuenco, Commissioner Andy Bautista, Francis Jacinto, Alexander Magan

WINSTON Liamzon, Vico Mendoza, Willie Chan, Jo Ong

JEFF SOHNY and Tootsie Angara

CV Espiritu, Mercho de los Angeles Concepcion, Dunbar Lillie, former Ambassador to Spain Luis Bermejo

Without batting an eyelash

Mauricio Arcadio

Photos by Alex Van Hagen
powered by MIKE MAC SUPER

LAURO and Grace Ilaja with children

DR. AVIS Tan, Nilo Romero

HONIDA Romero and husband Bernd dela Cruz

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CV Espiritu, Mercho de los Angeles Concepcion, Dunbar Lillie, former Ambassador to Spain Luis Bermejo

Van Laack opens in Manila

Their 18th chic brand becomes the 1st Filipino-owned luxury label in the country

Reawaken your cells to blast cellulite

From page F1

the FDA approval is all about the therapeutic effects of the technology, according to Dr. Ariel Torres, medical director of Marie Frances.

"It works on the draining; you improve blood and lymphatic circulation," he explained. "Lymphatic circulation is getting rid of the toxins. Unlike the veins and the arteries, the lymphatic are the small pathways. Unlike the heart, there's no muscle involved, so in exercising patients we apply manoeuvres so they don't develop edema. What you're promoting lymphatic circulation, you're helping the body."

This is especially beneficial for pregnant women, who tend to get heavy legs as a result of the pregnancy. "You can do it to help circulation. It's only for the legs, and not for a contest purpose," Marie's said.

Any patient age 18 and above is an ideal candidate for echo-i-SLIM, Monteros said. A patient is not asked to lose weight first before the treatment, unless she is obese or with a BMI of 30 and above, in which case a weight- and inch-loss program is advised.

Contouring

Echo-i-SLIM is a contouring program with some inch loss involved, Torres said. "While some don't have cellulite, they could have localized fat that can be treated with this, he added.)

"What we're against is when a patient is obese and won't do anything to address the obesity but wants to do this," he said. "It won't get ideal results."

"We recommend that they diet and exercise to improve results," Monteros added.

Patients with pre-existing conditions like diabetes and hypertension are okay to undergo the program, as long as their illnesses are under control. No one are patients with broken skin, those with infectious diseases, skin must be intact; if a patient is undressed, she is advised to return when the flaking disappears.

There's zero discomfort with echo-i-SLIM, and there's no downtime or special preparations before treatment, said Monteros. A full program is 10 sessions, with a maximum of three sessions a week or 35 minutes per session. Maintenance is once a month after that.

While therapists used to just estimate and memorize the amount of time a client is taken to work on an area, the improved machine has pre-programmed settings for specific problems and areas to be treated. The mechanical rollers now also have different speeds and manoeuvers to target specified problems.

As for the unsightly cellulite, Torres said there are studies proving that regular treatments of up to 12 sessions increase sensitivity in the stubborn fats in the femoral region. They become more responsive, he said.

The realistic expectation: "You see an immediate effect on your circulation after the first session," said Torres. "You see an effect on the skin quality. There's no pain, no swelling, no skin reddening. You can do pretty much anything."

DR. ARIEL Torres and Dr. Chris Monteros

Babeth Lolarga artworks at Nineveh in Laguna

"BUDDHIST" Babeth Lolarga's artwork

NINEVEH ART Space is holding seven simultaneous shows until the end of April. Among them is a retrospective of a batch of Cultural Center of the Philippines 13 Artists Awardees, and an exhibit of works by Babeth Lolarga, "A Baby Changes Everything." Nineveh Art Space is on the 2nd floor of Prayer is at 3452 1st Ave., Villa Silangan Subdivision, Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Visit www.ninevehartspace.com/exhibitions.html.space.

National Book Store promos

Fifty Apple iPhone 4Gs are at stake with National Book Store's Smart Grads. Get Smart Rewards 2 Raffle Promo, held April 15, every P500 purchase of any product in a single transaction entitles you to one raffle ticket. One consumer can't chances of winning by buying a Smart Bro Plug-it bill and score the additional coupons on top of the accumulated number of coupons. Fifteen winners will be chosen from Luzon, and 10 winners from the Visayas and Mindanao. Meanwhile, 25 lucky winners will be able to take home a brand-new laptop in the Shop & Win MacBook Air Laptops with Mastercard promo. Until June 30, all MasterCard debit, credit, or prepaid cardholder can get a chance to win one of 25 MacBook Air 11" laptops. Every P1,500 single-receipt purchase at any National Book Store or Fully Books branch using MasterCard entitles customers to one raffle entry. The 25 lucky winners will be chosen at the grand raffle draw to be held on July 13.

Meat-processing seminar

The Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on meat and fish processing at the G&BC Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City, on April 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Participants will get an experience from the seminar-workshop on longganisa (sisiman, anjan, nuded longgan, Chinese sausage, embutido deluxe, chicken and pork ham, pork quekuan, fish ball, fish fillet, Spanish and tomato sardine, pork and bangus patty, spiced ball, corned beef. There will be a frozen cooked products for better exposure to clients, peanut butter, and actual demon on bangus de longings also included. Participants will receive a certificate of making. Call tel. 421-1677, 4080 9245 and 9-0808 01; or log on to www.Golden Treasure Skills.com.

Textbook-writing seminar

University Press of Film Asia through its Academic Publishing Division (UPFA) will conduct free writing workshops in digital/educational publishing.

Robinsons' Vanity Fair

Robinsons Supermarket, in partnership with Beauty Enthusiast Community, is holding its nationwide Vanity Fair this April. Some 10 malls in 6 provinces are participating. Shoppers get a chance to extra ca- an iPad gift certificate with a minimum purchase of P500 worth of products. Mini-Sun items are offered at 5-percent off. Mall shows will be held on April 20 in Robinsons Place Manila, April 27-29 in Robinsons Metro East, featuring the Take Ensemble which will pay the Mojo Dan jingle, accompanied with a geisha dance. Visit www.facebook.com/Centropelle.

Centropelle summer shoes

Centropelle launched summer styles which includes practical loafer flats and pumps; wedges and chunky platforms in cheerful colors; and strappy stilettos in purple, red, mustard, pink, blue and orange. On sale in Centropelle SM North Edsa, Landmark Trinoma and Makati. The Launched Grand Mall, CDM Office Center Ali Mall and Greenhills. Festival Mall, Vigan, SM Cebu, SM Iloilo, LRK. Visit www.facebook.com/Centropelle boy online at www.rubicon.com.ph and soon on shopeas.com.

Experience M Here Exclusives

Metrobank Card believe it more exciting to be cardholders to enjoy life's many pleasures through great deals on event-before-tions, dining, shopping and wellness.

M Here Exclusives is a benefits & privileges program launched in October 2011 that offers cardholders exclusive discounts of at least 40% when using their Metrobank Card.

M Here Exclusives spans this year with exciting offers from Papa John's Pizza, Banana Leaf, Banana Leaf Asian Cafe, Gold's Gym, Nike Women, Nike Forum, Corner of Creativity and Cuisine, Toast Philippines.

Metrobank cardholders can enjoy 40% OFF on their total food bill for a minimum single-receipt purchase of P3,000 at Papa John's Pizza. Enjoy their pizza's hand-tossed original crust dipped into their cinnamon Special Garlic Dipping Sauce. Create their best orders in their Super Papa's Pizza - an all-meat combination of savory pepperoni, Italian sausage, ham, hearty sliced mushrooms, onions, green peppers and fresh diced Cheesy. Papa John's Pizza has locations across the nation.

Another exciting dining treat for Metrobank cardholders is the M Here Exclusive offer with Banana Leaf and Banana Leaf Asian Cafe. Metrobank cardholders planned to spend at least P1,000 in which they can instantly get a 40% discount on their food bill when charged to their Metrobank Card.

For gym enthusiasts, Metrobank cardholders can get 50% OFF their one year Elite Unlimited Membership at Gold's Gym. Valued at P36,000, Metrobank cardholders will just pay P17,500. The gym even lowers down payments to make it more affordable with only P1,750 as down payment.

Indulge in the latest clothing and shoe designs from Nike Women, Nike Forum and Cuisine on Ground. For a minimum single-receipt purchase of P4,000 with your Metrobank Card, at these stores, receive a P1,000 gift certificate to feel. Corner of Creativity comes other brands such as Nike 38, Hurley, Insight, Vans, Havaianas, 60-Station brands and Converse Inbox.

Metrobank cardholders can also enjoy up to 40% OFF on hotel bookings from One Legazpi Place, Legazpi Suites and Punchbowl Resorts Port Point. For only P3,888 net for bookings in One Legazpi Place which is only P4,270 net for bookings in Thunderbird Resorts Port Point. To avail, simply call Asia Travel Philippines at 310-9999/8989.

The perks with your Metrobank Card are just endless!

For complete promo mechanics, simply visit www.metrobankcard.com. Ref. CFS-BCP Permit No. 3888. Series of 2012.

THE PARISIAN BLOGGERS PICTORIAL PARTY

Vote for Your Most Stylish Blogger!

It was Paris, Pretty, and Pink all the way for some of the metro's most stylish bloggers during the **Parisian Bloggers Pictorial Party** held recently at the Elle Studio at the A. Venue Mall in Makati.

Ladies were turned on twenty-five young bloggers/vloggers who were treated to a makeover session, and had their photos taken during the event. As participants, they have agreed to have their best photos published in the Parisian Facebook Page.

Followers can vote for the Most Stylish Blogger beginning April 9, 2012 by visiting the fan page http://www.facebook.com/ParisianMoststylishBlogs, by typing in Parisian shoes and bags, and clicking the Parisian Summer Collection Blogger Challenge. The blogger with the most number of likes will win P30,000 worth of SM Gift Certificates for herself, and another P30,000 worth of Gift Certificates for her Parisian Facebook followers. The voting will run for only three weeks. Vote for the Most Stylish Blogger now!

THE BACK STORY

The makeover sessions were amazing and a whole lot of fun. Here's the back story!

1 The Bloggers were welcomed into a lounge where they spent time talking, fashion with friends. It was here that they got to choose the Parisian Shoes and Bags for their makeover Shoot

2 Mac Factor Philippines Chief Make Up Artist Bobby Cortes brought out the 3 Looks in each girl in the makeover bonfire

3 After the makeover, they were ready for their close up with Magic Cone celebrity photographer Niko Villegas

GLAM TRANSFORMATIONS

MAKEOVER MAGIC

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Get a hold of a good clutch bag

Why these elegant little bags can also be good investments—and, as these designers are proving, serious arm candy

SEE STORY ON PAGE G2

Gaultier exhibit the hottest ticket in San Francisco

'I am no great artist. As a designer, I want to be connected, be sensitive to what society wants'

By Leica R. Carpo
Contributor

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Jean-Paul Gaultier's exhibition at M.H. De Young Museum in Golden Gate Park blurs the line between fine art and fashion. The multimedia exhibition includes 130 haute couture and prêt-à-porter designs created between the early 1970s and 2010.

From a stint in the Philippines in 1971 with Pierre Cardin to taking over the house of Hermès in 1999, JPG has literally been all over the map. The exhibition includes extensive sketches, archival documents, fashion photographs and video clips that spotlight Gaultier's 25-year career, including collaborations with filmmakers, choreographers and musicians, most notably Madonna.

GAULTIER G2

Gaultier exhibit the hottest ticket in San Francisco

From page G1

JPG agreed to do the exhibition, launched in Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, on the condition that it be unlike the usual stiff, chronological modern style of exhibition, but a more provocative, animated production that would show off his personal themes of equality, diversity and perversity.

Poetic vignettes

To make this pioneering exhibit happen, Gaultier partnered with the Montreal-based theatre company Ubu Compagnie de Création in designing 16 provocative mannequins who talk and sing in playful and poetic vignettes. These lifelike mannequins are fascinating to observe by themselves, but dressed in JPG finest, the exhibit comes off more as hauntingly "chic punk." In a city like San Francisco, known for alternative lifestyles, and if the standing-room-only media event is any indicator, this will be one of the city's hottest tickets this summer.

"I wanted to create an exhibition on Jean Paul Gaultier more than any other creators because of his great humanity," explained Nathalie Bondil, director and chief curator of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. "Beyond the technical virtuosity, an unbridled imagination, and groundbreaking avant-garde collaborations, Gaultier offers an open-minded vision of society, a crazy, sensitive, and sassy world in which everyone can assert his or her own identity through a unique fusion couture."

The openly gay JPG has received awards from LVDA and AMFAR for his outstanding craftsmanship and ability to use his talent to tackle gender and transgender issues through androgynous and gender-bending styles. Asked his opinion on what he considers beauty, JPG stated: "I don't accept that a woman has to be beautiful and just shut up—that is a stupid idea!"

That explains his choice of mezzo-soprano, avant-garde performance model for his runway shows. He consciously pushes people's buttons by delving into the darker areas of the sexual revolution, addressing issues of multiculturalism, aside from bringing ethnic diversity to the Paris runway. Despite the gritty and controversial concept of his collections, the clothes remain beautiful, superbly crafted with the finest dressmaking and detailing skills.

Six thematic sections

The multimedia installation is organized along six different thematic sections tracing the influences, from the streets of Paris to the world of science fiction, that have marked the couturier's creative development:

✦ "The Odyssey of Jean Paul Gaultier" begins the exhibition with an exploration of several signature Gaultier looks—e.g., the blue and white striped sailor shirt in all its themes and variations, spectacular mermaids and virgins. It underscores the traitor with singing mannequins and a spoof cameo by the designer himself.

✦ "The Boudoir" explores Gaultier's fascination with lingerie and undergarments, culminating in his signature collaboration with Madonna for her "Blonde Ambition" tour.

✦ "Skin Deep" is a risqué, provocative gallery featuring garments inspired by elements of bondage and body art.

✦ "Urban Jungle" is a multi-colored clash of influences including Tunisian, Mongolian, Hasidic Jews, Frida Kahlo and Chinese. This gallery includes highlights of Gaultier's home-couture detailing with unusual materials and techniques on view.

✦ "Punk Cancan" features the debauchery of nineteenth-century Parisian cancan dancers and the street punks of London.

✦ "Metropolis" concludes the exhibition with a presentation of Gaultier's work for film, performance pieces and his eclectic ships with pop icons such as Kylie Minogue and Tina Turner.

✦ Fashion photography is also a major focus of attention, thanks to loans of never-before-seen prints from renowned contemporary artists and photographers including Andy Warhol, Cindy Sherman, Irwin Warren, David LaChapelle, Richard Avedon, Mario Testino, Steven Meisel, Steven Klein, Herb Ritts and Sharon Piggins. Flower to Gaultier, Inez van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin, Paolo Roversi and Robert Doisneau.

Beauty everywhere

"I am no great artist. As a designer, I want to be connected, be attentive to what society wants, desires and be clever enough to interpret into something beautiful," says JPG.

He does see beauty everywhere—not just in, for instance, he redesigned into a bracelet, it aims more inspired his perfume packaging. Despite his reputation as fashion "enfant terrible," JPG comes off as a humble, self-deprecating and quite sweet. He associated his childhood influences from "Vesna," his visible lover which he dressed up since he had an interest in a Barbie doll, to his fascination for his grandmother's softened pink satin corset.

The corset, an item he says "can testify the body," in his signature piece and one he is constantly reinventing. Perhaps the corset's most memorable reincarnation is best seen on Madonna during her "Blonde Ambition" tour in 1990. Here, their historic collaboration resulted in the "pointedly sexual cone-shaped bra" a vision embedded in most minds as the true icons of Masculinity vs Femininity.

"The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk," runs March 24-Aug. 19 in Herbst Special Exhibition Galleries. Tickets can be purchased on site or by buying a website: www.deyoungmuseum.org

EARLY example of unconventional bra

SADDLE UP! Madonna with her iconic "Confessions" tour

CROCODILE leather corset shows superb craftsmanship

BRIDAL outfit (another version shown on top right photo)

OPENING segment of exhibit with five mannequin sections. Gaultier's fans and critics welcome people to the exhibit.

Get a hold of a good clutch bag

Ingrid Chow-Go

THE BAG HAG DIARIES

CONFESSION: I never really saw the need to invest in a good clutch until fairly recently. Why? I didn't understand how an expensive clutch could be an "investment" if I can't get good mileage out of it. After all, how often does one carry a clutch, anyway? It's small, rather impractical, and, quite honestly, not easy to carry if you're attending a cocktail party.

Of late, however, I've come to understand the need to have one good clutch. Clutches are no longer confined to dinner and cocktail parties. Even un-formally already carry them to work. The day Sees are some clutches for the coming season, from the resort shows and presentations in Milan and Paris. One of them is bound to be something you could clutch as your own. Bills seen to themselves.

Hermes No Hall/Winter 2012: Yes, Hermès creative director Christophe Lemaire is more bags into the models on the catwalk, and I couldn't have been more pleased. I singled this one out because from what I prefer balances of feminine and masculine in them.

While the clutch looks feminine—especially with how it is to be held—there is also something quite masculine about it. Certainly, perhaps unintentional the more "masculine" feel to the collection for the seasonal. And, of course, as with all other favorite bags, this one is going to be a good investment.

Chloe: No-brainer. Chloe has always made excellent bags... from the "It bag" days of the Paddington to the Silverado and the Paraty of a few seasons ago. It's always made a point to use the brand come up with new designs, and while I had gotten used to seeing a lot more "styling" on their bags, it is nature refreshing to see Chloe produce a "done" clutch like this one. We hope this could also work easily as an ideal case!

Schiaparelli: Strong, geometric patterns on a bag? Yes, please! Why set parameters when it comes to clutches? No need to go for safe, solid colors all the time. Women want to see more for beautiful clothes, but never for bags. Shades of the shoulder bag which easily doubles as a clutch for their fall/Winter 2012 collection, the brand clutch rise on up and take notice.

Priceless

Bulgari: The satin pochette from the Serpenti collection is truly priceless as satin usually impress have been known to work as lucky charms by the way, and because of the brand's long standing relation with this upscale, 2012 has been designed of their year of the serpent. What I truly love about this clutch is, the oversized bauble attachment allows you to carry the bag "beside-free."

It's no ordinary enamel bangle, either—it is made through a micro-casting process, and goes through careful galvanizing, engraving, and then gold plating. It's practically a piece of jewelry and a bag rolled into one!

Hilton Hotel: This luxury brand has been around for a long time, but I am seeing a strong bag collection of late. This "Satin" bag has a chain strap, but you can rock them outside the bag to use as a clutch. Versatility is key when looking for that "one" investment, so it's a "yes" to have a clutch that also works as a shoulder bag. I love that this bag will also come in different colors and textures for Fall 2012. Nina Ricci is a bag brand to watch out for this coming season.

Walter Steiger: Exotics are good for clutches—they do not overpower as much as they would if made into a big bag. This flap clutch in natural python is undeniably sexy. The matching gives the bag that extra style, and though the python patterns is already busy, it still makes the clutch some together quite easily design-wise.

Steiger is more known for his shoes, counting Victoria Beckham and Nicki Minaj as fans, but he definitely scores a coup with this clutch.

Yoshi: What a beautiful ruby red crocodile flap clutch! I find that "key" hardware exclusive quite charming, too. Yoshi has been established as a luxury company that produces well-thought-out bag styles that have longevity built in designs and function. This reminds day-to-night design is no exception.

Longchamp: This coming season is all about "more is more" for Longchamp. The brand spices up the collection by producing bags with different textures, like this one with a tight weave. This is the perfect bag to add a bit of fun to your wardrobe.

Ingrid Chow-Go is the blogger behind www.thebaghagdiaries.com; follow her on twitter.com/thebaghag.

TIGHT crocodile flap clutch with brass hardware

HERA Rock's "pixie" bag

THE SERPENTI Satin pochette in different colors

STRONG patterns on the Viscose bag

Expertly contour and highlight your face

Contouring should provide natural shadows on your face when sunlight hits it, and must be used to softly accentuate your features

GOLD and bronze tones always look sassy.

"HELLO KELLY. I just want to ask what makeup trick would be best to shape my face and sharpen my nose a little." —Selina Chistelina

To defining your features and give your face a more angular look, do contouring. It is an essential part of applying makeup, but can be tricky for most as a wrong hand can make you look harsh or unnatural. To keep you in check, dark stripes applied on cheek, brow and shading prominently draws in more line as a no-no. Contouring should provide natural shadows on your face when sunlight hits it, and must be used to softly accentuate your features.

Mimmary highlighters usually come hand-in-hand with contouring, as it works to brighten areas of your face, while shadier, more matte or contouring makeup slims and defines it.

Dressing a makeup palette of gorgeous nude and neutral browns, beiges and gold will lend the look you want to achieve. Purchasing the right products for your skin tone is just as important as knowing how to apply them, so take note of each product's shade, consistency and texture.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Kelly Hiza

To find out what makeup you'll need and discover easy tips on how to apply it, follow these easy tips.

Shades and textures

Experiment with shades and textures.

When it comes to makeup, finding the right shade to suit your skin tone may be a little daunting. You'll want your foundation and powder to match your complexion, with a palette of bronzers or sculpting powders to work with, ranging from reds and blacks to different hints of earthy tones (think khaki, camel, caramel and coffee).

Another important thing to consider is texture, as matte, satin finish, shimmery pearlised or iridescent components makes all the difference when applied to makeup. The best makeup to work with is one with a natural satin finish. When you come to any floor store that offers skin schools, always look. Anything too metallic or glittery usually ends up looking tacky, so steer clear from these when shopping for makeup.

Before you hop to the ground, this may look like a very obvious tip, but is one that most of us tend to forget. Pretty packaging or cute reviews from a friend may push us to impulsively purchase an item, but you really don't know how a product will look on your skin until you try it. It may look fabulous on a model in a magazine or even on your friend, but may not necessarily work on your complexion.

At the same time, you may discover an even better product from trying different ones.

Avoid the dreaded a muddy look. A mix of shades when choosing a sculpting powder or bronzer make sure it is only two shades darker than your skin tone. Any darker and you can end up with a messy, unnatural look than it seems at making. Obviously too dark powders can be difficult to blend with your complexion, which is why you should stick to ones closest to your tone. Also, orange, red and pink tones can be hard to work with, so avoid these.

Application is essential. Using a large, fluffy angled brush, sweep bronzer along your hairline, temples and hollows of your cheeks. Make sure it blends well with your skin, then apply highlighter on your cheekbones, bridge of your nose and chin. Highlighters should match your complexion and depends a hint of shine on your skin. To define your eyes, use a blending brush to softly accentuate its sides, starting from the inner corners of the eyes just below your eyebrows going down to tip of your nose.

Eric is beauty questions? E-mail the author at ask.lee.lyrissa@gmail.com.

Use accents on 'neutral' face

SOME PEOPLE frown upon up an our makeover when takes make up artists and writers pats graphic to explain: "The most modern way to wear bright color is as an accent on an otherwise neutral face." So ladies, that's the answer to wearing everyday makeup this 2012.

Pair a soft, nude eye with a neon lip or a bright eye with a nude lip. This unique pairing of Neons and Nudes is exactly what's hot this Year of the Dragon, thus ring a hand time when adding RT 1 added makeup: your Caroline Loutis to give our usual makeover a splash of intense color.

BACKSTAGE PASS

Isabel Flores

This week's subject is Christine, a doctor and a new wife who has a not-so-secret love for makeup and she enjoys experimenting with new products. So I asked Carmie to give her two looks with which she can purposely apply Bobbi Brown's makeup philosophy and, of course, take full advantage of her favorite makeup collection.

Day look

Carmie started by using a foundation brush to apply liquid foundation on certain areas of Christine's face. The makeup session eased into a smooth start as the two instantly related to loving Chanel Illumination Aqua foundation.

"The fluid is extra fine coverage, a sheer foundation that appears stunningly even, fresh and energized," Christine said.

"Apply a light foundation only on the areas where you need it, like the sides of the nose which usually get red and areas where your skin tone is uneven," said Carmie.

"If you don't have a brush, you can also use clean fingers when doing it on yourself."

Being a doctor and working long hours, Christine's personal time is often spent on the road, manned by long hospital rounds.

But this is not a problem for our makeup artist. "Take lack of sleep with a good under-eye concealer like Bobbi Brown's Creamy Concealer Kit (P1,900)," said Carmie. "Then, set your foundation and keep shine at bay with a silky pressed powder like Maybelline Shine Free Pressed Powder (P495)."

As we moved to the eyes, Carmie filled in the sparse areas of her brows with a taupe pencil and kept them in place with brow gel. You can Try Bobbi Brown's Blonde brow pencil (P1,050) for an easy crayon draw.

Carmie then applied a soft lilac eye shadow on the lids and a shimmery champagne eye shadow in the inner corners of the eyes and the brow bone to brighten the eyes. These are soft neutral colors that will have an complement any strong color of lipstick you might want to use.

Pair a soft, nude eye with a neon lip or a bright eye with a nude lip

DAY LOOK

NIGHT LOOK

"Line the upper and lower lash line with a dark brown pencil and smudge with a cotton bud," Carmie said. "To brighten the eyes further, apply a light peach liner to the waterline. Finish it off by curling your lashes and applying your favorite black mascara." Try MAC's Zoom Lash Mascara in Waterfront Black (P900).

For the cheeks, smile to find the apples of your cheeks and brush a warm apricot-colored blush," she said. "It will give you have a rosy glow." Try Maybelline Mineral Power Blush in Peachy Keen (P795). "As a last touch, apply bronzer right below the blush as well as your temples, forehead and chin," Carmie finished by applying a rosy lipstick on with moisturized lips. If your lips are cracked and dry, use a lip balm like Maybelline's Baby Lips (P795, then try BMC's Naughty nude lipstick (P1,000) for that pink stain.

Night look

"For a quick change-in-a-night look, add a little drama to the eyes with a black liquid liner," said Carmie. Try Bobbi Brown's New Ink Liner in Really Black (P1,450).

Liquid liners add an intense definition to the eye that creates that sophisticated smoky look.

"So with everything, practice makes perfect, so don't fret if you can't get that little flick at the outer corner of your eyes right on the first go," said Carmie. "Have eye makeup intuitive and colors look ready when you do this part." Try Maybelline Makeup Intenser Lip Eyes & Lips, (75ml, P195; 45 ml, P99) to clear those tiny stakes.

Then Carmie finished off the look by using a lipstick with a pop of color. "For an instant glam look, apply a bright pink or fuchsia lipstick." Try MAC's Building Love Lipstick (P1,800).

And for that quick do-it-yourself updo, try Candy Simple Styler clips (P549.75). It comes in simple updo's without the fuss, pasted in front of the mirror.

So that's how to do it. No need to run to the cosmetic counter to get a new batch of makeup. Use your old nude palettes, like your beiges and browns and mix it up with highlights of bright and pop up colors. Don't be afraid to use strong lipstick colors, they will easily be balanced by the soft nudes and neutrals to accentuate eyes and cheeks.

For more of Carmie Loutis's makeup creations, check out makeupcarmie.multiply.com. Call her at (0920) 9039630 or book an appointment.

[illegible]

Vanity should give way to pregnancy care

THE TEAR of the Water Dragon is supposedly an auspicious one for having babies. Couples are racing against time to conceive no later than May 2.

Women who are planning or are expecting are urged to read the fine print in pregnancy beauty. Magic ingredients that make us pretty all year round are banned from conception.

Category X products to be avoided by women, they include most acne products, sebaceous women's body products, whose ingredients should not be used at all during pregnancy. It will put the fetus at risk for serious birth defects. It also increases the risks of fetal loss, *Kaila Ortega, cosmetologist, Clarins Beauty Institute*, which means, do not use.

Acne treatment for mothers-to-be

New treatment for in-dire-straits hair

Rebonding excess may damage the hair. Cream Silk has a new formula to take care of that

By Rita Y. Vergara

WOMEN WITH straightened or rebonded hair know the dilemma too well. You come up of the salon after a straightening treatment with the softest, frizz-free hair only to wake up a couple of months (or even weeks!) later with a permanent bed-hair day that refuses to respond to the most expensive shampoos and conditioners. In your desperation, you go back to the salon to literally straighten the situation out, and the cycle starts all over again.

Cream Silk may have a more sustainable solution for you. In a recent product launch hosted by RJ Ledesma and the brand's newest celebrity endorser, Georgina Wilson, at Yik Hip in Bonifacio Global City, Unilever launched Perfection by Cream Silk, its latest product line designed for women with chemically treated straightened hair.

Unilever executives Vic Gutierrez and Rina Mangilit described the product as a breakthrough in hair science. Unlike ordinary hair conditioners, Perfection by Cream Silk was formulated using "keratinology."

And to be 1,000 times smaller than nano technology, keratinology enables the product to penetrate up to three layers of the hair strand and weave its way into the cortex cracks to help gradually restore and repair straightened hair from roots to tips, making it shinier, softer and full-bodied.

Stressed tresses

"A growing number of Filipinas today love to go to salons and have hair treatments meant to straighten, relax or rebond their tresses," said Gutierrez. "Over time, these treatments destroy the lush, making hair scratch as dull and as lifeless as broomsticks. This product line was developed for them."

Perfection by Cream Silk comes in a range of products that you either leave on or rinse off: Full-bodied Straight Daily Treatment Conditioner, Intensive Treatment Mask, Instant Frizz Control Leave On, and Detangling Spray.

"We still carry older variants of Cream Silk," Mangilit elaborated. "This line is for women with specialized needs because they regularly have their hair straightened."

Gutierrez also pointed out that perhaps no brand knows the hair-care needs of Filipino women better than Cream Silk. Unlike its competitors, the brand was conceived and made in the Philippines for Filipinas.

"We understand Filipino women's needs because we're right with you," he said. "Through the years, Cream Silk has become the most trusted brand of conditioner in the Philippines. It is sold abroad, but we export it from here."

Unilever's headquarters is in London, but the multinational company also has research centers in Bangkok, Shanghai and Manila. If the total hair market in the Philippines is worth P25 billion, said Mangilit, 45 percent of that comes from sales of hair-straightening products.

"We honestly don't know how long it took Unilever to develop the latest product," she said. "Our large research and development team work on these things, and it's a continuous process. Each breakthrough comes from what we've learned through the years. It's not like we invented Perfection by Cream Silk from scratch."

Unlike when they have their hair regularly straightened, users are in no danger of "overconditioning" it with Perfection by Cream Silk. It's designed not to "weigh down" their crowning glory.

"In fact, the more you condition your straightened hair, the more it becomes beautiful," said Mangilit. "Since the objective is to smooth your hair, the product is not designed to be harsh. It's meant to bring back your hair's natural luster."

The premium product line is a bit more expensive than Cream Silk's regular line. But it's probably a small price to pay to straighten hair that has limited frizz being chemically pummeled once too often.

BIGBIG Chang, Katrina Espa, Erika Salita and Kayie Bustal

TRICIA Constantes, Kitty Ann Ramos and Chen Garcia

VICTOR Basa and Diana Lee

ISABELLE Daza

EMMA ROSA Cabrera and Phoenesia Baranda

CREAM Silk women Arsha Arauzo-Alonso, Rosa Fernandez and Pony Lacsa

KAYE and Rep. Freddie Tinga

ANNA Mangilit

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

There's a new generation of eyebrow tattoo

Even Lucio Tan's 26-year-old son goes for enhanced brows

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

MECHANICAL ENGINEER Eric Tan, the 26-year-old son of tycoon Lucio Tan, came to Prettyfolks aesthetic center with an unpretentious face. After the Eyebrow Enhance procedure, he left happy and confident.

"After maybe," darkest nerve-numbing Blair Drug, 22), who enhanced his brows by making them denser, wider and darker which, Ong said, is the ideal for Asian eyes.

The treatment was misrepresentation, commonly known as permanent cosmetics or cosmetic tattooing. He was trained by his mother, Susan Co-Ong, named as "Asia's Master of the Aesthetic Tattoo."

Ong studied aesthetics in Singapore, Taipei, Japan, France, the US, and has won foreign awards including the first prize in the Golden International Aesthetic Tattoo Competition.

She has applied 27,000 pairs of eyebrow tattoos to people of various nationalities the past 20 years. She founded Prettyfolks aesthetic center which is known for micropigmentation.

"Micropigmentation is a term for procedure that embeds organic pigments underneath the skin," explains Susan. With a pen-like instrument, it takes only 36 minutes to enhance the eyebrows with natural coloring. Hundreds of light strokes on each hair strand are applied.

The absence of pain, swelling or side effects is attributed to Susan's background as a registered pharmacist. She makes sure that compounds and formulations in Prettyfolks are of high standards.

Cosmetic tattooing has been in the Philippines for over 50 years. Men and women stand to wake up looking attractive in the morning as they did at night with their permanent eyebrow shaping, lip color or lipliner or upper and lower lid eyeliner. Aside from celebrities and professionals, the procedure is popular among the mature market with weak eyesight or unsteady hands. When applied properly, the cosmetic tattoo look very natural.

Susan and Blair developed Eyebrow Reborn, the new generation of eyebrow tattooing. Unlike the traditional cosmetic tattoo which can last 20 years, the updated version is a semi-permanent tattoo that lasts two to four years.

Although the color remains in the dermis, it can fade over time, from frequent sun exposure or water. This will require a touch-up.

Blair points out that the Eyebrow Reborn is designed for the younger and young-at-heart clients who don't want the same lifelong make-up.

Junior Volcanoes take the fashion spotlight

Bench campaign features Philippine Rugby Junior Squad athletes

THE 100-PERCENT Pinoy retail label Bench has been supporting the Philippine national rugby team, the Volcanoes. This year, the fashion house extends its support to younger players of the sport.

Bench is supporting 19 particular Philippine Rugby Junior Squad athletes Reggie Tingle, Ted Stephenson, Ben Saunders (team captain), Dennis Mallo and Daniel Mackenzie, who are all under 20 years old.

Bench is extending its support to younger rugby players to raise awareness among Filipinos of the game. In turn, Filipinos can help

(UNDER H1)

CLOSE Face. Reggie Tingle is ready to rumble.

GARFIELD
By Jim Davis

A-LUPIN
By JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY
By Nel Garcia

DICK TRACY
By Joe Staton and Mike Curtis

LOKSHOTS
By Elizabeth Chionglo

BABY BLUES
By Jerry Scott

KIKO MACHINE
By Mang Abrea

BEN
By Daniel Shelton

HUTTS
By Patrick McDonnell

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
By Jim Toomey

DUSTIN
By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker

TULDOK
By Nanie Coll

HOROSCOPE

By Francis Dimaat

ARIES (March 21 to April 20). Even here on your island is improving your health. Definitely will deepen. You've decided that you can't be alone and your art supplies and feel more healthy as well. Overcome it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20). One has expressed to you become more actively involved in meeting old but will afternoon, more ready to the company of others. This applies to all social acts, particularly projected friends with children.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). You're ready to roll up your sleeves and tackle remodeling projects or big improvements at home. You receive your publicist with family members! Use this to the max.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22). You're bound to run into someone who can be of your assistance and vice versa. Networking is the key. Be open to new ideas, cooperation and willing compromises.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). You're bound to be outspoken in public and in all your communications with others. Have you noticed? Everyone likes frank? This will serve you well if you're in sales, marketing, teaching or acting.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). You are really spending your money now, and you can't seem to stop! Impulsive spending is the order of the day. Be careful with your purse strings. Beware.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). Today there, which has been in your sign for so long, once again moves forward. That's why you feel like you, too, must move forward in all your pursuits. Push over those hurdles!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). Behind-the-scenes research will start to reveal what you are looking for. It appears that your patience is finally paying off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). Once again, you undertake to proceed the same before. This time, you intend to enhance investment. Research your finances and you've got a plan.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). There does continue to appeal to you even though you've been travelling a lot lately! Once again, you'll be making plans to go somewhere soon.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18). Studies about interviews, tests and examinations could occupy your time. If so, you likely will get your way because you're strong! You have a healthy self-esteem to boot.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20). Despite difficulties with others you have prevailed for this long, you're starting to understand how to deal with these situations. You're learning to live with them and not make a big deal about anything. It really is that simple.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

5	7		4	2				9
		4			3			1
							6	
	2							5
3								8
9							1	
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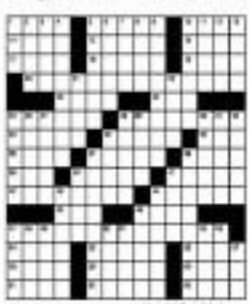
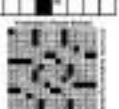
Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





Junior Volcanoes take the fashion spotlight

From page B1

support the national team as well as help promote the sport by buying Bench products.

The new Bench campaign featuring the junior rugby players was shot against the green field and benches of the Rizal Stadium.

In the photo shoots, the boys are dressed in the brand's V-neck and piqué shirts, cargo pants, and blazers while wearing their rugby shoes matched with long football socks.

The junior athletes spent a comfortable look that could appear as smart casual suits the rugby shoes.

But Filipinos aren't strangers to heavenly pictures of the rugby players. After all, their body is their best asset in playing the sport. Though their physics are not seen, Bo Bench underwear label pushes just about the waistband of the shorts the boys are wearing.

Nipgie, Neil, Ben, Dennis and Jamil enjoy the time out in the field, playing with the ball and sharing banter and laughter with each other.

Jane Chan of Bench is one of the junior athletes' biggest supporters, sponsoring the team with his 100% local brand. Through the new Bench fashion collection, he wants to stir awareness among Filipinos of the Philippine Rugby Football Union and its athletes.

The new collection featuring the junior rugby players is now available at available at the Bench store nearest you.

CAVEMANS and pogue mates come home the sporty.

RFU Rammers, Neil Stephenson and Nipgie Yaqin make playing rugby look sexy.

FILIPINOS are not strangers to heroic, especially when it comes to Bench campaigns.

There's a new generation of eyebrow tattoo

From page B1

Eyebrow reborn takes into consideration the basic eyebrow which tends to be less dense, coarser and has a lighter contrast than the Caucasian skin. The treatment's success lies in the professional's understanding of eyebrow anatomy and hair physiology.

The elevation of the eyebrow, the arch position and the thickness can make or break a face.

Aesthetic eyebrow tattoo is a welcome improvement as it is lightening up the appearance. Mature caregivers look younger as it lifts the face. People with sparse eyebrows tend to look dishonest, but with thicker and arched brows, they look happier. Men with blond hairs become dashing.

There are cases, however, of botched jobs. The most common complaints are "too dark," "wrong shade" "uneven" and "not botany."

Stassi and Hilot have had a significant number of clients who come in their everybody's eyebrow repair.

According to Hilot, clients come in complaining about tattoos' dots higher than their natural brow line, chemical brown, discoloration into blue or green or too huge. The worst cases include brows with two or three tails.

"We specialize in damaged tattoos," says Stassi who corrects the color, shape and evenness of the tattoos.

She recalls that one of her most challenging cases was singer Cynthia Ortega's botched eyebrows which took her six sessions to remove and reconstruct the new tattoo.

Over the years, Stassi has done the eyebrows of Gay Quirino, Sandy Andolong, Jolo Revilla, Connie Angeles and the late Dolly Ann Magsaysay who at 75, had permanent makeup. Stassi notes that tattooed eye brows in the '80s were more dramatic, high contrast and emphasized. In the '90s, eyebrows were fuller and darker.

What is exciting to the younger number of models such as Alyssa Ambisi, fishbird girl Mark Bautista, and upcoming singer Jason Dente. Today's more permanent brows are well-defined, natural but less dark or too thin.

Sometimes clients come with illustrations of their ideal brow which Stassi rejects. She can make over a thousand brow shapes but the perfect brow depends on other factors such as age, skin tone, facial contour and personality.

"If the client is conservative, we don't make the brows too arched. They are softer and more natural," she says.

"If the client is sexy, the eyebrows are more defined and have a high arch," adds Hilot.

BEFORE. D.V. Tee with thin eyebrows.

AFTER. Tan looks more exciting with darker and denser brows, the ideal for man, after Epidermo Reborn.

SUSAN Co-Ong Isabelle daughter Blair who is considering permanent lip color.

By word of mouth, Presbyterian has also been getting many clients for permanent lipstoning. Aside from the vain reasons, there are smokers who want to lighten their dark lips and have victims who want to remove old or ruin their mouths.

The price is an affordable P5,000 for eyebrow tattoos and P4,000 for permanent eyeliner tattoo. The client pays an additional P2,000 on top of the service to avoid herself of his son's cost.

Stassi, by the way, looks younger than 31. Her beauty secret goes beyond cosmetics. "I stay happy because the kind is in my heart."

Presbyterian is at Unit 3B1 United Emerald Tower 1634 corner Garnet, Ortigas Center, tel. 6377587.

Skin whitening that adapts to your skin

Pond's powerful new whitening formula actually targets each individual's skin-lightening genes

By Carmencita S. Steven
Contributor

PASSIONATE ABOUT satisfying women's desire for lighter complexion... more the memorable ad campaigns, and the efforts to make skin lightening available to all Filipinos through affordable 'on-the-go' —Pond's unveiled its most powerful skin lightening formula during a beauty 'inspiration' for select media at Malia Hotel.

Though I'm not one to go gaga over the latest beauty products, the event Pond's breakthrough got me intrigued. Intrigued enough to try it myself.

The new InnoActive Formula in the Pond's Flawless White has been a result of 10 years of research on more than 20,000 gene scales at the Pond's test tubes.

Research has determined that a certain set of genes influences skin darkening by triggering melanocytes [unclear] producing cells to produce more melanin, the pigment that ultimately dictates how light or dark one's skin tone is.

Though, the naturally fair-skinned, my penchant for basking under the sun has taken a toll on my skin. When I learned that the new formula understands a person's individual genetic makeup, I pondered the possibility of finding answers to my skin tone and dark spots problem.

The improved night cream, a non-sexy luminescent powder available in shades of runny white and rosy beige, and an ultra luminous serum, which is definitely at the top of my must-have list, as its concentrated formula of 2% pentose effectively diminished the size and intensity of blemishes, dark spots and discolorations (not just those on your face). For some, it also works wonders on wrinkles.

Its velvety texture makes it a treat to apply, as well.

Dispelling the common misconception that skin-lightening products are only meant to miraculously transform a dark-skinned girl into a porcelain-skinned one, Pond's global research division for skin appearance Dr. Hebert Holzhaus disclosed what Pond's Flawless White is really all about.

"It's not about making women lighter than the skin they were born with; it's really about helping women be the best they can be," said Holzhaus.

"It's about controlling melanin and excess melanin rather than removing it completely."

POND'S Flawless White Lightening Day Cream SPF15 PA++

POND'S Flawless White Ultra Luminous Serum

POND'S senior brand manager Jacque Rangelus, assistant brand manager Glen Yu, Rhea Manongsiot-Delia

She stated that exposure to UV darkens one's skin and creates more uneven skin tone. It worsens early as pollution, cigarettes, and chemicals with pro-oxidants also induce melanin production. "When one's skin is stressed or upset, the first thing it will do to restrain melanin, as we're really all about giving the solutions for even skin tone and luster skin."

Pond's research showed that in seven days, nine out of 10 women agreed that Pond's Flawless White made their skin significantly fairer, even toned, and translucent.

"That 10th woman, we think, may be a genetic anomaly."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Edited by Evangeline G. Velarde

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'Aliwan Fiesta'

"Aliwan Fiesta" at Aliw Theater tonight features "Pinoy Pop Superstar" runner-up Mikyas Ramada and ex-Star Circle quadruplets Luke Mejares and Duncan Ramos starring pageant night or search of this year's festival Queen. Rivals are Nicole Hyala, Chris Tiaqui and Pippa Jack. Tomorrow, the festival dance showdown kicks off 2 p.m. at Quezon Guadalcanal. A float parade will then make its way to Aliw Theater, with TV5's major stars. It is "Aliwan Fiesta's" 13th year.

SHOW TIME

VIC SOTTO plays "Pinoy Hoops" with Filam students.

California dreamin' with 'Eat Bulaga'

By Boysie Sun Diego Jr.

SAN FRANCISCO—The crossover's timing wasn't accidental, said Malou Choa-Fagar, senior vice president and chief operating officer of Television and Production Exposition Inc. (Tape Inc.), producer of the GMA 7 noontime show "Eat Bulaga."

The cast and some crew members livelessly known as Dabarkads, slang for barkada or gang) held a one-night concert dubbed "EB Loves San Francisco" at the Cow Palace in Daly City recently.

Not the entire cast was present: Joey de Leon, Jimmy Santos, and Ryan Agoncillo had problems with their travel papers. Bia Guanio is pregnant.

Cow Palace, where such luminaries as Prince, Dolly Parton, The Rolling Stones, and Led Zeppelin have performed, was booked for "Bulaga" in time for the long Holy Week holiday explained Fagar.

After the concert, the main hosts proceeded to Los Angeles, then Las Vegas and New York.

During their week-long stay Tito and Vic Sotto and Anjo Yllana tried out the golf courses in Palo Alto and San Francisco.

Anjo said he liked San Francisco's TPC Harding Park course better. "That's where the President's Cup and other big tournaments are held," Tito said.

The trio also played in Los Angeles' Treasure National Golf Club. "We can't do without golf," Vic said.

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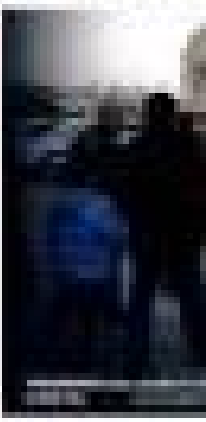
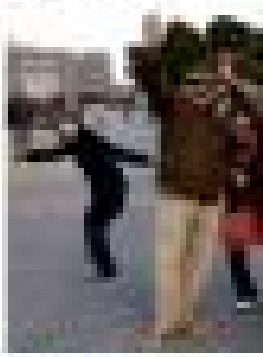
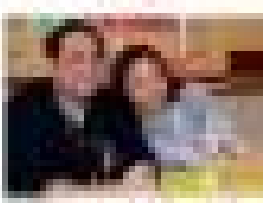
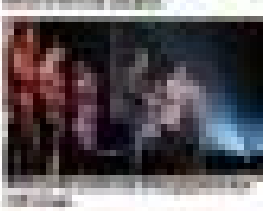
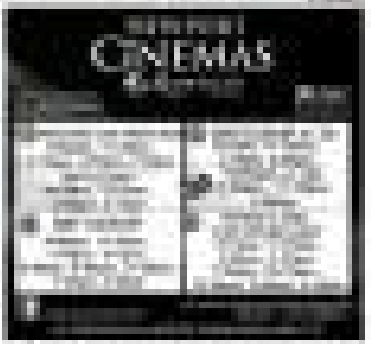


California dreamin' with 'Eat Bulaga'





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TITANIC

Valuable lessons

By Rhyzel San Diego Jr.

TV-RADIO personality Grace Lee points out that she has acquired prudence, a valuable lesson she learned during the media circus that followed news of her romance with ex-husband Francisco Arcagna III.

"Being judicious. Knowing what to believe and what not to believe. It really tests your entire persona," she reflects.

On Arcagni, her ex-friend in "Babaengbuhl," gifted her with a DVD of "The American Presidents" in February.

She finally got to watch the Hollywood film about a hunk she UK president (Michael Douglas) and his girlfriend (Annette Bening) recently. "I loved it!" she says.

Did she gain any insights on how to cope with the pressures of public life? "To some no-lan," she replies, only half in jest.

The music of The Cranberries: Tasteful, infectious, full of zing

Text and photos by Pocholo Concepcion

THE FOUNDING of the Isaac dome would have dowsed the flamboyant on the front seats of The Cranberries concert Tuesday night at the Smart Araneta Coliseum. By certain measures, we felt one show was being beaten to crazed fist met.

But when the lords, the action onstage was worth all the body trauma. The music made the promising audio bearable...guitarists Noel Gallagher's Johnny Marr-inspired rhythms shimmered, while his brother, bassist Mike Hogan, jammed with drummer Brad Lawler (the culprit of the relentless thumping sound) to keep the tempo relentlessly upbeat.

Singer Dolores O'Riordan was a delightful presence. Her trademark vocals—a fusion of an angelic choir leader and a dangerous siren—showed no sign of wear and tear since the band came on the scene in the early 1990s.

She was a bundle of energy, her dance moves consisting of a vigorous and well-timed shaking of arms and body, sometimes breaking into a teenage twist, other times headbanging like a goddess-icon of heavy metal music—except that the band's music was closer to New Wave via The Smiths, with touches of folk as in Celtic.

There was much to enjoy in the band's hometown tunks, including the tribal beats and reedco guitars in "Wow," the high energy in "Just My Imagination" and "Empty Inside," and the intense feelings in "Can't Be With You"—even as the big hits "Linger," "Ode To My Family," and "Zombie" drove the fans crazy.

VOCALIST Dolores O'Riordan

DRUMMER Fergal Lawler

Dolores is 40 but it suited her fine to groove to the vintage doo-wop sound in "When You're Gone," but she would really go head-to-head with today's female rock stars as she skimmed to the last pastel numbers like a runner savoring his last summer holiday.

These were dark and somber moods, too, but the romantic desperation in "Losing My Mind" (from the 2011 album "Roses") was difficult to absorb, especially with Dolores' magnetism casting a spell on the rapture and wonder around and wild men in the house.

Even the pitiful circumstance of the girl madly in love with a new-coming girl in "Linger" was hard to relate to, since all that mattered at that moment was Dolores' voice filling the room. "Do you have to be a bigot," "Zombie" was about the political conflict in Northern Ireland, and the tension could be felt in the song's shouting guitars and foreboding rhythm. But it was an arduous task to feel indignant, unconcerned as the audience was with the singer's prodding.

The last encore number, "Salvation," was a refreshing nod to punk rock, an anti-drug lyrics enhanced by the band's crowd-thing beat.

When it was all over, the message was clear. "Things can go hang, we rock 'n' roll makes life bearable and exciting!

The merchandising in the group's merchandise is old hats and nuts run wild. Dolores should take heed. She's too much of a performer to be content with knitting at home, looking like a grocer."

GUITARIST Noel Hogan

BASSIST Mike Hogan

ENTERTAINMENT

Ellyn Jessica C. Valverde

"MAD MEN" star is starting an accountability with long-time partner, filmmaker Jennifer Westfeldt.

Jon Hamm mad about his girl

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rebecca T. Acebedo

"WE MAKE up for each other's deficiencies very nicely," Jon Hamm said of his durable relationship with Jennifer Westfeldt, his girlfriend of 11 years.

In a recent interview, the "Mad Men" star explained how he and Jennifer have stayed together and why, how they are surviving the challenges of working on an indie film, "Friends With Kids." Jennifer wrote, stars in and directs the movie that also features Adam Scott and Maya Rudolph.

"Friends..." is also Jon's latest project. He told us, "If you pour all anything, it's that it only takes one yes." He was referring to his struggling years in Los Angeles, when he worked in a waiter and cast a self-imposed deadline to make it in Hollywood when he turned 30.

If that didn't happen, Jon planned to return to his native Missouri where he taught acting class at his high school drama master ("The Bridesmaids" and "The Office" actress Ellie Kemper was his student). Jon has been quoted saying that he did not want to end up as "one of those actors who are 45 years old, with a resume glimp of their own reality, and not really working much."

The "yes" in Jon's life came with a role in the drama series "Providence," which led to several books, including his breakout role in "Mad Men." His portrayal of an ad exec earned him a Golden Globe trophy for best actor in a TV drama. Now 41, it doesn't look like Jon will be returning to Missouri anytime soon!

Below are excerpts from our interview:

For a lot of women, you are the catalyst man in the world. What do you think?

"You need an intentionally funny television show to refresh you're the one. Just you need an award-winning writer to write really good lines for you. With those two things, you can..."

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How I went from 4XL to MEDIUM

WHAT WORKED. WHAT DIDN'T.

MY OVERWEIGHT DESPERATION LED ME TO CRASH DIET. A LOT...

Like many women out there, I was under the delusion that going on a strict diet was about the only way to lose excess pounds. I tried various fad diet plans and lost some weight, but every time I stopped, those pounds would come back fast – plus more than before. Ginawa ko na ang lahat, nag-gutom pa ako. I realized it wasn't worth it. Crash diets just led to yo-yoing in my weight. Even the new fad diets that cost thousands for a program, in the end they are basically the same as any other diet, so why would I pay for something I can simply find on Google?

HORMONAL INJECTIONS SOUNDED GOOD BUT...

I heard about those injections but they are coupled with a super restrictive diet of just 500 calories a day. If injections worked, why do I need the diet? Who wouldn't lose weight on only 500 calories a day – if you don't die of hunger in the process?! It didn't sound healthy. It worried me that I would have foreign hormones injected into my body, it's not natural, something bad could happen to my system. Mahirap na. Is it really worth the risk?!?!

THEN A FRIEND RECOMMENDED MARIE FRANCE...

She told me how Marie France had slimmed her down, how easy and simple it had been. I was eager to give it a try. But I wondered if their system was just another program that subjected you to extreme diets. Fortunately I was wrong. Marie France simply helped me adopt sensible eating habits which led to a welcome lifestyle change. With their treatments and without having to follow a diet, I lost my excess weight! From a whopping 170 lbs, just look at me now – slimmer, healthier, and firmed up with no sagging skin. Most of all, I know the excess pounds won't come back!

Some people wrongly believe a Marie France program is expensive, actually it's only about equivalent to your annual gym membership. The difference is, with Marie France you'll get great results in less than 3 months – seeing those first pounds disappear in just a couple of weeks. And you get professional help and guidance from qualified nutritionists who counsel you on your food and drink choices, and doctors who monitor your progress ensuring you lose weight safely.

IT WORKS SO WELL, IT COMES WITH A MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

The Marie France slimming system is proven and is unique in that it comes with a Money-Back Guarantee – if you don't achieve your target weight loss and you've followed the simple program, you get money back. In fact you've got nothing to lose with Marie France except your excess fat! If Marie France were not totally confident that their program worked, they wouldn't offer the money-back guarantee. With an offer like that, why would you choose any other alternative?

When it comes to losing weight, there's no such thing as magic or miracle. If you're not fully committed, you can't expect to get real results. Marie France worked for me because it offered a simple, sensible, assured approach that a busy woman like me can adhere to. In just 75 minutes I could burn as much as 1,000 to 2,000 calories – that's equivalent to running for one and a half hours. I lost pounds and inches without feeling tired or hungry. It was perfect for me.

My 40L body is now a thing of the past. Thanks to Marie France, I no longer worry that I'll be fat for life.

– Marybeth Claus
Businesswoman

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Jon Hamm mad...

Pretenguin D

you're in such a slump?

Your Don Draper character looks very classic on "Mad Men." In what era would you personally like to live?

I like the present. I like fast airplanes, really safe cars and painless dentistry. Although the '50s and '60s were pretty good eras in this country, especially for a wealthy white male. But I prefer now. I love my iPhone.

You and Jennifer have been together for 10 years. Can you talk about how working together on a project like "Friends With Kids" may have tested your relationship?

For complement each other. After 15 years together, it's a good place to be at. We make up for each other's deficiencies very nicely. I overheard Jennifer saying that she's very detail-oriented and I'm super aware of everything. I'm a little more laid back and tend to be like, "Let's relax."

I think those traits can be stepped up to a limit. I can be so laid-back that I tend to fall asleep. She can be so hyperstressed that she can't fall asleep. Her hobbies each other out in that respect. I think that is what has contributed to our longevity as a couple. We're also very honest and upfront with each other. We don't hide anything from each other. If something bothers us, we air it, deal with it and move on. It's a very adult way of dealing with problems.

Any reason why you didn't play the lead in the film?

What, you're a couple concerns, is

> 'I tell kids who want to pursue acting that they're going to hear no a lot, so they should get used to it'

can be confusing for an audience. I think it's a little superiotic and weird. It would be harder to cosplaint or arbitrate my personalities the frame of the characters. So we decided to remove that from the equation. I think it was probably a wise choice.

How did you and Jennifer meet?

My ways both involved with actors people others we met, so there was no immediate explosion. It was more of a slower get to know each other in stories. About a year later, we started dating.

You had difficult challenges in your younger years, but you stayed on top of everything. What motivated you?

I had amazing teachers in my life who were very important to me. And I was not too young and stupid to think that I was smarter than them. I had my parents when I was young. I had very good friends whose parents rolled weird and very much helped to raise me in the whole sense of "it takes a village" kind of scenario.

My best friend's parents became my de facto parents during those years, and I still look at them that way. I'm very close with the friends I grew up with and their families. I'm not going to say that I didn't have my share of stumbles and poor decisions along the way. That's part of growing up. You need to learn from those.

I decided at some point in my life that I was going to come to Los Angeles, try to be an actor and make money. Acting was the only thing I had any training in, so once I had enough money and a car that could go over 2,000 miles, I pointed it west and came out here.

I was determined at least to give it a shot. That was another thing that the teachers in my life instilled in me. Just because you fail at something doesn't mean it's permanently over. Get back up, brush yourself off and move forward. That's the one thing I tell kids who come and here, who want to pursue acting: "You're going to hear NO a lot, so get used to it." If I'm proud of anything, it's that it takes just one yes.

Do you plan to direct eventually?

I did direct one episode of "Mad Men" this year but directing features films is totally different from directing TV programs. Basically, directing on TV is making sure the train doesn't run off the tracks, whereas directing films is constructing an entire train. I have no desire to do that.

E-mail the columnist at rvnguelas_1105@yahoo.com. Follow him at http://twitter.com/rvnguelasbon.

JON'S girlfriend Jennifer Westfeldt with Adam Scott in "Friends With Kids."

After a century, Titanic's truths are revealed

By Oliver H. Pulumbarit
Chief Diver

A HUNDRED years after Titanic went down, History Channel's two-hour special, "Titanic Mystery Solved," answers long-held questions about the sinking of the historic vessel.

In an exclusive phone interview with the Inquirer, Carl Lindahl, the cable network's executive producer of historical programs, and series producer Rasheeve Dewoyne said that this massive undertaking took nearly three years to finish.

"Previous expeditions only photographed the bow and the stern of the ship," Lindahl said. "What was photographed and researched was only 60 percent of what's down there. The remaining 40 percent that you'll see here are segments of Titanic that no one ever knew existed. We'll see all the pieces and a snapshot in a never-before-seen debris field that will forever be used by anybody who wants to study the Titanic."

ROVs, or Autonomous Underwater Vehicles, scanned the wreck site. Gathered data were patched and "composited" into a large image, Dewoyne said. Crew members from different technical fields here their expertise in the effort.

DENOOYER. "The odyssey has a hold on our imagination."

"The expedition was unique in a number of ways—its technology certainly, but also in the team's makeup," Dewoyne added. "There was tremendous diversity [in the] principles and facilities that were involved... I don't think any previous expedition has had such a broad and deep range of scientific and engineering [expertise] and institutions."

Lindahl and Dewoyne agreed that this collaboration was pivotal in the painstaking task of studying thousands of photos documented over several square miles.

Unique enigma

"The expedition took place on the heightened hill in 2010, but planning started about a year before that," Lindahl revealed. "After the expedition was over, it took a year and a half to analyze the findings. Literally hundreds, perhaps thousands of hours of materials had to be viewed, screened, analyzed and compared by all the different agencies that were involved in the expeditions."

The Titanic disaster is a unique enigma that has baffled and intrigued generations, noted both Lindahl and Dewoyne. "I think the story of Titanic has an enduring appeal on human imagination for a number of reasons," Dewoyne said. "It's symbolic in a way; man, versus technology—we overthink ourselves that it is so good that it's been proven for three times. And of course, when we think that we are eventually proven wrong. It also has the human side of it where you can think about that night without imagining, 'What would I have done if I had been there?' I think that for all these reasons, it retains a hold on our imagination, and in a way, is timeless."

"It fascinates people because it has them on many different levels," Lindahl added. "It's human drama with a great loss of life, but it's also a story of the failure of technology of science that people thought there they had mastered."

("Titanic Mystery Solved" airs tonight at 8, on History.)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) intends to standardize all motor vehicle license plates pursuant to RA 4136, as amended by Batas Pambansa 43.

At present, there are approximately 7.2 million registered vehicles, majority of which, or around 3,537,585, still bear non-graphic plates. Needless to say, this creates confusion in the apprehension of counterfeit plates. Hence, the LTO shall standardize motor vehicle license plates in order to improve the Motor Vehicle Database System; cut the loss of government revenues; and end the practice of using dilapidated and illegible plates.

The LTO shall set guidelines and procedures in order to implement the program on January to July 2013 for plates ending in 1 to 7 and for plates ending in 8,9,0 within August to October 2013. Included therein is the outsourcing of motor vehicle plate production for the replacement of all existing plates with new motor vehicle plates.

In view of the foregoing, the LTO is requesting for information on the latest technology available on motor vehicle license plates that must past tests conducted by an independent laboratory. The response should include a detailed specification of the proposed license plates, including its strengths and weaknesses. The proposed material must also have a minimum of thee (3) security features. Its superior quality must last for at least five (5) years and must have a full reflective identification system.

The response to this RFI must also include the estimated cost of each pair of plates to be produced.

There shall be a scheduled conference on 19 April 2012, 1:30 pm at the LTO Bulwagang Romeo F. Edu, 2nd floor LTO Central Office, East Avenue, Quezon City where clarificatory questions may be asked by the interested parties.

Please submit response to this RFI to the Office of the LTO Executive Director at East Avenue, Quezon City on or before 18 May 2012.

(PSA – April 13, 2012)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
CARS/VANS
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
GIFT
GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE
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BOHOL II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
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INVITATION TO BID
City of Toledo

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
DILIMAN CITY

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Procurement of Products and Services for Key Components of the eUP Project

1. The University of the Philippines System through the General Administration and Support (GAS) Budget to apply the sum of One Hundred Thirty Nine Million (Php139,000,000.00) being the approved allocation for Capital Outlay (CO) to undertake the contract for eUP@PROJECT.EXCELLENCE.Philippines (PEX) payments and services in connection with the said allocation/appropriation purposes of UP in support of the UP mission of academic and operational excellence. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The University of the Philippines System now invites bids for the **eUP Project** (IPEX). Delivery of Goods is within the prescribed Terms of Reference (Delivery timeframe) from contracted notice (projects for the planned 30 years).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and/or citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information and examine the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday to Friday.

   UP System Supply and Property Management Office
   Bonifacio Stratum Hall Building
   University of the Philippines Diliman Campus
   Quezon City
   Tel. Nos. 8981-8521 or 8981-8500 local 2303

5. The following are the schedule of activities:

Activities	Date	Venue
Pre-Procurement Meeting	17 April 2012 (Wednesday)	UP Diliman, BIR
Posting in PHILGEPS and Web Interphase	18 April 2012 (Thursday)	
Pre-Bidding Conference	24 April 2012 (Tuesday)	UP Board of Regents Room
Last day of submission of queries	3 May 2012 (Thursday)	UP System SPMO
Public Bidding (Stage 1) Opening of Eligibility and Technical Documents	8 May 2012 (Tuesday)	UP Board of Regents Room
Public Bidding (Stage 2) Opening of Financial Documents	10 May 2012 (Thursday)	UP Board of Regents Room
Announcement of most responsive bidder	15 May 2012 (Tuesday)	UP Board of Regents Room
Post Qualification	16-18 May 2012 (Wed-Fri)	UP System SPMO
Issuance of Notice of Award	21-25 May 2012	UP System SPMO
Approval of Contract by BOR	On or before 29 June 2012	
Signing of Contract	On or before 29 June 2012	

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **19 April 2012 (Friday)** from the address above and upon payment of non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Php500.00** to UP System Cash Office.
7. It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **the specified date and time** in the schedule/timeline table. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the schedule in the Bidders.

   Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
9. The University of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and declare the bids void, to reject the signing of notice of award and/or signing of contract without liability incurring any liabilities to the affected bidders, and to waive any deficiency in the bids, and/or formalities. Neither do we accept or award the contract to the lowest or any proposal or offer to make advantageous to the University.
10. For information, please contact:

    Ms. ISAGANI C. BARUD
    Officer-in-Charge, UP System Supply and Property Management Office and Secretary, UP System Bids and Awards Committee (UPS BAC)
    Bonifacio Stratum Hall Building (ground floor, Bonifacio Building)
    UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City
    Telephone No. 8981-8521 or 8981-8500 local 2303

Digitally signed by
ISAGANI B. BARUD
Assistant Vice President for Administration and Chair, UP System Bids and Awards Committee

(PEN - April 13, 2012)

ISELCO-1
ISABELA I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. Victoria, Abra, Isabela

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO SUBMIT BID PROPOSAL

WHAT : Public Bidding re: Supply of ISELCO I Power Requirement for July 20, 2012 to July 19, 2013
Note: Filing Fee is P15,000.00

WHEN :

Release of Invitation to Bid	April 16 to May 7, 2012
Deadline for Submission of Bid Proposal	May 8, 2012
Pre-Bid Conference	May 8 to 9, 2012
Opening of Bids/ Bidding	May 14, 2012
Evaluation of Bids	May 15 to 16, 2012
Award (subject to successful contract negotiation & BOC approval)	May 18, 2012

WHERE : Boardroom, ISELCO I Main Office Compound, Victoria, Abra, Isabela

For inquiries, you may reach the Chairman of the Bids & Awards Committee, Ms. Leonimelda S. Torres at (074) 742-7731 or the BAC Secretariat at (074) 742-7732.

Sgd.) **MS. LEONIMELDA S. TORRES**
Chairman, BAC

(PEN - April 13, 2012 & May 11, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

LICENSE FOR PRIVATE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT AGENCY

PAPA LICENSE NO. 00-06-07-2005
C.A.A. 000-709-032-000 ☐ NEW ☒ RENEWAL

This license to recruit, process and employ workers is hereby granted to:

FREEDOM STAFFERS, INC.
5th Floor Makati Commercial Mall, Amorsolo Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City

pursuant to the Labor Code and Omnibus Rules Implementing the Code.

This license shall be valid in the Philippines for six years(a) 30 March 2012 to 30 March 2012 unless sooner revoked, cancelled or suspended for violation of the Labor Code and related issuances. Transfer or use by any other person or entity renders this license null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand issued the Official Seal of National Capital Region, Department of Labor and Employment, in the office of the City of Manila, Philippines, this 5th day of February 2010.

SIMMUNDO G. ADAMANTE
Regional Director

(PEN - April 13, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL
Caraballo Administrative Region Campus

Invitation to Bid for the Construction and Completion of PSHS-CARC Academic Building – Phase I

1. The Philippine Science High School – Caraballo Administrative Region Campus (PSHS-CARC), through the approved allocation as stated under of the FY 2012 General Appropriations Act (2012 GAA) and the FY 2012 Special Budget Law (SBL), intends to apply the sum of **Php70,000,000.00** (Php 69,800,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction and Completion of PSHS-CARC Academic Building – Phase I. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The PSHS-CARC now invites bids for the supply of labor, equipment and materials for the Construction and Completion of PSHS-CARC Academic Building – Phase I. Completion of the Works is required for Two Hundred and Ninety (290) calendar days. Delivery should commence immediately within ten (10) days from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a condition similar to this Project, which must form a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instruction to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from PSHS-CARC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays, except holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on April 16 to May 7, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of twenty nine thousand pesos (Php29,000.00).

   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Philippine Science High School System, provided that bidders shall pay the fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
6. The PSHS-CARC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on April 20, 2012 at 10:00 AM at PSHS-CARC Library, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before May 7, 2012 at 10:00 AM at PSHS-CARC Library. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

   Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. The PSHS-CARC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
9. For further information, please refer to:

   BAC Secretariat
   Pinsao Loakan, San Vicente, Baguio City
   Telefax: (074) 444-1158
   E-mail: **carbac_psvc@yahoo.com.ph**
   Website: http://carc.pshs.edu.ph

Sgd.) **RICHARD L. LIMUSAN**
BAC Chairperson

(PEN - April 13, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IVA-B
M. Ancheta Bldg. 3, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Trunkline: (049) 545-0142
Telefax No.: (049) 545-0142
April 13, 2012

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	**BELKOTEL OVERSEAS CORPORATION** Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Brian Keith Greaves / Australian	Sports Activities Coordinator
2.	**IBM LOGISTICS PHILS., INC.** Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Rod Kennedy Hamilton / Australian	Quality Assurance Manager
3.	**RELIANCE APPAREL & FASHION MANUFACTURING CORP.** LEC Bicutan, Cavite	Mr. Zhijie Pang / Chinese	Sewing Technician
4.	**YONG SHIN PRECISION MYSPHILS., INC.** CPT-3, Brgy. Punta, Calamba City, Laguna	Mr. Shu Feng Jeong / Korean	Technical Consultant
5.	**YONG SHIN PRECISION MYSPHILS., INC.** CPT-3, Brgy. Punta, Calamba City, Laguna	Mr. Chang Hyo Shin / Korean	Technical Consultant
6.	**LAGUNA METTLE CORP.** Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Hirohisa Ishikawa / Japanese	Manufacturing Engineer
7.	**UNAX TRANSMISSION CORPORATION** LOT 1, Carmelray, Canlubang, Calamba City, Laguna	Mr. Hisaya Akuto / Japanese	Executive Vice President – Chief Finance Officer & Treasurer
8.	**ROHM ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC.** PEC-2B-2, Malvar, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Kazuki Mukouyi / Japanese	Deputy Plt. Manager
9.	**SUMMIT BOND PHILIPPINES CORPORATION** LOT Bonifacio, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Motoyoshi Watanabe / Japanese	Assistant General Manager
10.	**TOSHIBA MV PHILIPPINES, INC.** PCE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Yasuhiro Asahinuri / Japanese	President

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application(s), please communicate with the Regional Director.

Sgd.) **ALEX V. MESA**
Regional Director

To avoid a long queue, please fill out your application and bio-data form at home and bring it with you to the Regional Office. Forms are free of charge.

(PEN - April 13, 2012)

Economic Growth Experts

Chemonics International seeks professionals for an anticipated USAID-funded program that will provide technical support for policy reforms to comply with ASEAN Economic Blueprint commitments and advance trans-Pacific Partnership readiness. Professional personnel are sought in the following areas:

- **Trade policy expert**
- **Import/export specialist**
- **Trade facilitation specialist**
- **Economist with background in activity monitoring and evaluation**
- **Trade and investment lawyer**
- **Communications, training, and ICT specialists**

Qualifications for the above positions include the following:

- Bachelor's degree in economics, business administration, law or related field required. Advanced degree preferred.
- A minimum of 8 years of relevant experience.
- Experience with policy review and analysis, specific analysis, specific knowledge of ASEAN rules and regulations is required.
- Experience working with international donor-funded projects. USAID experience preferred.
- Demonstrated experience managing technical teams.
- English and Tagalog fluency.

Application instructions: Send electronic submissions to **Philippinesjobs@chemonics.net** by April 18, 2012. Please include CV and salary history, with the relevant technical area in the subject line. No telephone inquiries, please. Finalists will be contacted.

Biodiversity Experts and Specialists

Chemonics International seeks professionals for an anticipated USAID-funded program that will reinforce efforts to sustainably manage and utilize environmental assets in mitigating and adapting to climate change in the Philippines and will promote the preservation of biodiversity, sustainable landscapes, and adaptation. Professional personnel are sought in the following areas:

- **Chief of party – equivalent of managing director of project**
- **Deputy chief of party**
- **Protected Areas Specialist**
- **Biodiversity Conservation Advisor**
- **Climate Change Technical Advisor**
- **PPP Specialist**

Qualifications for the above positions include the following:

- Bachelor's degree in environmental science, global environmental policy, or related field required.
- A minimum of 10 years of relevant experience.
- Experience with climate change policy and analysis, specific knowledge of biodiversity and conservation is required.
- Experience working with international donor-funded projects. USAID experience preferred.
- Demonstrated experience managing technical teams.
- English and Tagalog fluency.

Additional qualifications for the chief of party position include the following:

- Graduate degree required.
- A minimum of 15 years, including five years of personnel and project management experience.

Application instructions: Send electronic submissions to **PhilippinesBiodiv@chemonics.net** by April 20, 2012. Please include CV and salary history, with the relevant technical area in the subject line. No telephone inquiries, please. Finalists will be contacted.

BATANGAS II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Autopista del Norte, Lipa City

INVITATION TO BID

WHAT	: Bidding for the Supply and Delivery of 69 Cost (PR-12012-067)
	: Bidding for the Supply and Delivery of 20/23 MVA Substation Equipment, Protection Equipment, Accessories and Distribution Line Materials (PR-12012-068)
	: Bidding for the Supply and Delivery of Transformer Insulating Oil (PR-12012-069)
WHEN	: April 17, 2012 (Pre-Bidding Conference) – (PR-12012-067) 10:00 AM
	: April 17, 2012 (Pre-Bidding Conference) – (PR-12012-068) 1:00 PM
	: April 17, 2012 (Pre-Bidding Conference – (PR-12012-069) 3:00 PM
WHERE	: BATELEC II Main Office, Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City

Cost of Bid Documents : Php 5,000.00 (PR-12012-067)
Php 10,000.00 (PR-12012-068)
Php 3,000.00 (PR-12012-069)

Those interested Bidders shall secure the following Pre-Qualification Documents:

1. Business Registration as DTI or SEC
2. Permit to Operate (Region thereof)
3. Computation of Net Worth
4. Audited Financial Statement
5. Updated Income Tax Return
6. Latest Value Added Tax (VAT) Contractor's Certificate, etc.
7. Notarized authorization from the company being represented (for Representatives)

For inquiries, prospective Bidders may call Mrs. Jennelyn L. Pe, Raquel III, Central at (043) 756-4277 local 120/208.

Noted by:
Sgd.) **ENGR. CESAR EMILIO B. ESPINOSA**
Assistant General Manager

Sgd.) **CRYSTAL S. CRAS**
Physical Qualifications, Bids and Awards Committee (Secretariat)

(PEN – April 13, 14, 15, 16, 2012)

AURORA ECUA-1 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Aurora Hotel Site
Baler, Aurora

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The AURORA ECUA-1 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. with Office address at Brgy. Reserva, Baler, Aurora, intends to pre-qualify contractors for the supply of the materials in a quantity basis, as follows:

Lot 1 - Distribution Transformers 75KVA (10,000 QTY)
Lot 2 - Poletubulars
Lot 3 - Pole, Concrete, Round Steel Type, Pre-Tensioned
Lot 4 - Pole, Steel Drop Forged Steel, Hot Dip Galvanized
Lot 5 - Pole, Wood Poles
Lot 6 - OCWR series, Electronic
Lot 7 - Fuse Link for Single Shot Lightning Arresters
Lot 8 - Load Break Switch

Bidders will be selected through open competitive bidding process. Interested bidders shall comply and submit the following pre-qualification requirements:

a. Company Profile
b. Business Registration/Authorization
c. Mayor's Permit
d. SEC/DTI Certificate
e. List of clients for three (3) years
f. Financial Statement
g. Latest Income Tax Return

Submission of eligibility requirements deadline on April 25, 2012 and Bidding Proper deadline and bid on April 26, 2012. Pre-Bid Conference on April 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at Aurora Hotel, Baler, Aurora.

Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on April 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. and Public Bidding is on April 26, 2012, 2:00 p.m. at AURORA I Cooperative Hotel, Baler, Aurora. Bidders should submit only the bid bulletin, BAC or other issuances of stakeholders proposals shall not be considered.

BAC reserves only the right to accept or reject any bid or all bids, to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

AURORA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any deficiency in the bids, and/or formalities and to award the contract to the lowest or any proposal or offer to make advantageous to the Cooperative.

Sgd.) **JOSEPH B. MANALO**
BAC Chairman

Sgd.) **ROSE MARIE C. MESA**
BAC Secretariat

GUIMARAS' Manggahan Fest 2012 unveils grand spectacle of culture, sports, agri-tourism

GUIMARAS ISLAND is the island province of Guimaras as it unveils its two week long 19th Manggahan Festival, a grand spectacle of culture, sports, entertainment and agri-tourism, from April 19 to April 22.

With the 1st Mango Mas Triathlon (individual and relay 1.5k swim, 40k bike, 10K run) on April 15 at Raymen's Beach and the Manggahan Festival 2012 Tribes Competition among seven barangay groups on April 22 at the Guimaras Capitol Grounds to 31 consecutive, the festival is set the most ambitious, extravagant, and colorful event ever mounted in the province and is expected to draw thousands of domestic and foreign tourists at this time of the year.

At its tag suggests, the festival will tap to world famous but tasting carabao mango; to further hype the production of the province as the "Mango Capital of the Philippines", through some of the activities lined up, like the Manggahan Queen Pageant (April 19 1-6), Bisaya Science and Technology Forum (April 17), 1st Manggahan Culinary Arts Competition (April 18), Magandha Looking Demo (April 20), and Mango Eat-All You-Can Competition (April 19-22).

The festival, which was first held on May 22, 1999 to commemorate the 61st anniversary of Guimaras as a full-fledged province, officially opens on Monday April 16 at noon ding-a-ling the Ago Trade Fair 2012 to be kicked off with the street dancing competition at the Guimaras Capitol Grounds.

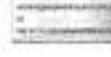
"No other place in the world can match the natural, unspoiled beauty and treasures of Guimaras, considered one of the exotic islands in the Philippines. Everything is in its natural setting," says Henry E. Balanza, president/chairman of the Guimaras Manggahan Foundation, Inc. and concurrently Consultant of Guimaras Provincial Tanks and Tourism which has been co-organizing the event with the Provincial Government of Guimaras led by Governor Felipe Hilan Nava, M.D. for many years now.

The province is fast becoming a popular tourist destination as can be gleaned from the hotel room taxes office's report of almost 200,000 tourist arrivals last year. Guimaras, which used to be a sub-province of Iloilo, is 10-15-minute boat ride from Iloilo City. For more information about the festival, please contact Ms. Jennifer Tenebroso, 09063555997 & (033) 3771134.

Sta. Rosa High School Batch '62 Alumni Homecoming

Calling all Sta. Rosa High School, Sta. Rosa Laguna batch 1962. There will be an alumni homecoming on Sunday April 15, 2012 at Sta. Rosa RS grounds. Mass will start at 8:00AM.

looking for a job?



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Diliman, Quezon City

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 240
Series 2012

SUBJECT : Rules and Regulations to the Implementation of Fisheries Observer Program in the High Seas

WHEREAS, the Philippines signed the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Agreement on September 13, 2000 and was subsequently ratified by the Senate on 2006;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a member of various international fisheries organizations such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission;

WHEREAS, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) established under the framework of these regional fisheries management agreements, have developed conservation and management measures necessary for the implementation of a regional Monitoring System;

WHEREAS, on 09 December 2007 the WCPFC has adopted Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2007-01 pertaining to the establishment of Vessel Monitoring System in accordance with Article 24(2) Annex III of the Convention;

WHEREAS, the Philippines as a Party to the WCPFC and to other Tuna RFMOs such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) must ensure compatible conservation and management measures when the vessels enter the Vessel Monitoring System;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has the obligation to establish a National Fisheries Monitoring Center to ensure that the Vessel Monitoring System complies with the requirements of international and foreign agreements and conventions;

WHEREAS, Section 10 Republic Act 8550 as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 provides for the establishment of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System for the conservation and management of fisheries and aquatic resources in the Philippines;

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, I hereby order and direct the strict implementation of the following rules and regulations governing the Observer Program in the High Seas:

Section 1. Definition of Terms. For purposes of these rules the following terms as used herein shall mean and shall be construed as follows:

1. Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) is refers to Vessel Monitoring Transceiver Unit, an automatic tracking device equipment for the purpose of the tracking system that utilizes a satellite navigation and communication system for the purpose of transmitting vessel position, course, speed, time and other information as may be required;
2. BFAR – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);
3. Bureau – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources;
4. Central Processing Center (CPC) – an entity that is authorized to be the central base which shall receive and process relevant VMS data from the Philippine operations or activities and monitoring data;
5. Commercial Fishing Vessel – refers to any vessel that is engaged in the activities of any other kind;
6. Fishing Vessel – refers to any vessel that is engaged in the activities of any other kind;
7. Fishing Monitoring Center (FMC) – refers to a unit that is established for the purpose of monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels and other activities in the Philippines;
8. Fishing Vessel – any boat, ship or other watercraft equipped or to be used for taking of fishery resources or which is capable of use for such purpose, for the transportation of fishery resources, for the storage of fishery resources, for the processing of fishery resources or for the performance of any activity relating to fishing, including but not limited to preparation, supply, storage, refrigeration, transportation and/or processing;
9. Fishing Vessel Owner – refers to the natural or juridical person in whose name the fishing vessel is documented by any other flag;
10. Flag State – refers to a sovereign state having a vessel flying its flag and is entitled to exercise its jurisdiction and control over the vessel in relation to flag state duties under the Convention and other international instruments. The Flag State of the vessel is usually where the vessel is registered and from which it operates;
11. FMC – refers to the Regional Monitoring Center of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources;
12. Foreign Fishing Vessel – refers to any vessel that is engaged in the activities of any other kind;
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Section 2. Authority of BFAR Observers.

1. The BFAR shall deploy duly authorized Fisheries Observer and other fishing monitoring/control duties and/or activities that are required under fishing agreements with the countries and international organizations accredited by the BFAR or agreements that the High Seas and in those fishing areas as may be determined by the BFAR or other countries and international organizations;
2. The BFAR observer shall have the authority to inspect all the Philippine flagged vessels and/or vessels not flying the Philippine flag or vessels in the Philippine waters as authorized by the BFAR or other countries and international organizations;
3. Subsequently, the extension of applications of BFAR to other fishing monitoring/control activities in or other fishery areas/flagged vessels as may be determined by the BFAR or other countries and international organizations with the state Parties and/or those entering into agreement with other state and international organizations;

Section 3. FMC. Fisheries Monitoring Center to operate at the BFAR-NCR Station and Fishing Technology Laboratory, Mariveles Fisheries Complex, Mariveles, Bataan for the purpose of the rules and recommendations and security of VMS data. It shall also be established in such portable form as needed.

Section 4. Implementation of VMS Data Gathering.

1. The BFAR shall operate and maintain a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the purpose of monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels and other activities in the Philippines. The equipment and installation of the VMS and use the following:
   1. ALC shall mean Philippine flagged vessels operating in the high seas with International Fishing Vessel (IFV) and;
   2. ALC shall mean Philippine flagged vessels operating in the high seas with International Fishing Vessel (IFV).

Section 5. Regional Vessel Monitoring Center. The vessel monitoring center for Regional Offices of the BFAR to cover the capability to operate the Regional Vessel Monitoring Center. These Regional Vessel Monitoring Center shall be established in coastal and port areas in the network of the Regional Offices of the BFAR. BFAR shall establish fishing vessels and their respective areas of responsibility.

Section 6. Vessel Monitoring Center Regional Vessel Monitoring. BFAR shall prioritize areas of the VMS Network. Fishing vessels operated Operation Center shall be established at the BFAR's Central Office fishing vessels. Likewise, BFAR shall provide a category list and the list prepared Coastal Operation Center.

Section 7. Registration. Fishing vessels operating in the Philippine waters and in the high seas shall be required to be registered with the Philippine government and in the FMC, manifest on board, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Philippine government. In addition to the requirements of the Philippine government, the vessel shall be required to register with the Philippine Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Philippine government. The vessel shall be required to register with the Philippine Regional Offices of the BFAR, in accordance with the Philippine Regional Offices of the BFAR, in accordance with the Philippine Regional Offices of the BFAR, in accordance

People, Events & Products

E-mail: supplements@inquirer.com.ph
Supplements Head Joeng Arcasas

Globe Telecom provides TaoPo.org with ICT tools for active citizenship

GLOBE Telecom recently inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with TaoPo.org to strengthen their support for a shared advocacy for good governance. TaoPo.org is an online portal which empowers Filipinos to become "changemoers" and utilize interactive tools and social media to promote accountability and active citizenry by allowing readers to articulate their experiences and post solutions to governance-related issues. TaoPo.org also has a mobile application on the android platform allowing citizens to upload photos and stories to the Tao Po website.

Through Globe Bridging Communities, the flagship corporate social responsibility arm of Globe, the telecom company will assist the TaoPo.org technical team with Information and Communications Technology (ICT) tools to support their advocacy via a one-year Globe tattoo® subscription plan, mobile phones, netbooks, and 300 Globe Bridging Communities (GBC) SIM cards.

"We are happy to support TaoPo.org in their call for good governance. We hope that by empowering them with ICT tools, we will help cultivate an environment where citizens take full accountability in making our own government work for us," said Bob I. Nanal, head of Globe Corporate Social Responsibility.

Through the partnership, TaoPo.org will also develop social media activism modules designed for barangay officials, youth leaders and public high school students and will provide speakers for Globe-initiated workshops. Topics include using ICT for good governance and communication skills. Joey Reggie Yniguez, president of Changemoers Digital Corporation, "TaoPo.org is all about realizing that change is in our hands. We are glad that Globe Telecom shares our passion for motivating Filipinos to take an active role in good governance."

Other projects under the i-Lead program of Globe Bridging Communities which promote accountability, transparency, and participation in good governance include "Sagot ka si Kapi," a program which provides barangays their very own mobile emergency hotline number and enables barangay councils (Community Watch Volunteers) with relevant equipment and personnel assistance.

FILE T. Edwards: Globe Corporate Communications head (third from left) becomes one of the first Globe "changemoers" from (left) Joeggie San Jose-Gregorio, president, Changemoers Digital Corporation; then Lyle Fellner, Social Media Activist, Changemoers Digital Corporation; and Bob I. Nanal, Globe Corporate Social Responsibility head.

An extra ounce of coolness from Sharp airconditioners

THERE'S an ongoing Sharp Corporation of Japan, represented here in the Philippines by Sharp (Philippines) Corporation, from introducing new products that will definitely touch the lives of many Filipinos with their discriminating needs for appliances to bring joy and delight to the home of today.

One such product range a Sharp's line of inspirational split-type and window-type airconditioners that offer better cooling efficiency inside the room (or even the entire house) compared to other airconditioner brands of today, a true welcome treat considering the type of climate we have in the Philippines.

For the foremost Split-Type airconditioners, which currently has 4 models, three outstanding airconditioners come with a 7-th generation Plasmacluster Ion Technology, Sharp's innovative and pioneering air purifying technology that has a technologically-advanced antibacterial filtration system to help ensure cleaner and fresher air.

It works by generating an electrical discharge to create positive and negative ions as they are released into the air. These ions, then, attach themselves to bacteria and viruses and instantly form highly oxidizing radicals which draw out hydrogen from the bacteria and then breaks down the protein's membrane to render it harmless. Then the hydrogen and oxygen radicals combine with hydrogen to return in the atmosphere as a moisture enhancer.

Aside from that, the ions neutralize static electricity to prevent dust, pollen and other air contaminants from clinging to walls and fabrics so that they can be easily collected and filtered to effectively remove dust, pollen, bacteria and odors, thus making people with allergic reactions to these air contaminants breathe fresh and easily.

The AH-XP10MRT (1.0HP) and the AH-XP13MRT (1.3HP) also come with a super jet mode for faster cooling no matter where you are in the room, and cools the room 30-percent faster than split-type airconditioners in the market today. Its gentle cooling gives a soothing coldness to the room, which is best for hidden and fewer effects. This powerful jet stream feature is also available in Sharp's split-type inverter models like the AH-XP10HMR/AH-XP11MR/AH-XP13RJ and even the non-inverter models such as the AH-A07UKMR/AH-A09UKMR, and the AH-A07UMR.

Sharp's window-type airconditioners are similar in efficiency and effective like the split-type ones, starting with the AH-A13GCCR airconditioner that comes in at 1.3 horsepower, with a Power Diffusion Energy Saving Control, a Top Discharge feature.

Clinic ng Bayan offers unlimited consultation

DO YOU have a throbbing pain in your back? Have you been experiencing nausea for the past few days? Are you feeling feverish for no particular reason? The smallest pain in your body can be the symptom of a serious condition, but most Filipinos tend to brush off matters to avoid consultation expenses.

While prepaid cards that guarantee unlimited consultation, Clinic ng Bayan's new offering, you can now enjoy unlimited visits to the doctor for a specific period without incurring steep consultation fees.

For as low as P300, you can get a prepaid card that gives you unlimited consultation and checkups for three months. Other Clinic ng Bayan prepaid cards worth P600 and P750 allow for six months while a P900 card provides a year's worth of unlimited checkups.

Just present your prepaid card at the reception area along with a valid ID for your consultation.

As shared venture by licensed health secretary Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan and TAO Corp. president Jun Sy, Clinic ng Bayan aims to bring first-class medical services to low-income Filipinos. It is a fully-equipped medical clinic that offers outpatient services at par with most private clinics but at a significantly lower price.

Opened in June 2011, Clinic ng Bayan is one of the most affordable healthcare clinics in Manila with a consultation fee pegged at only P200 and the best high-quality medical equipments and services.

Clinic ng Bayan is located on the upper ground level of Diamond Avenue, Aseana Boulevard. It has a total floor area of 472 square meters and seven consultation rooms, a reception area, a pharmacy and a diagnostic laboratory.

For more information about the Clinic ng Bayan, call (02) 709-4343.

BATANGAS FETES SM CITY

SM CITY Batangas was recently given by Batangas City an award for the Most Promising Business Establishment, Industrial and Schools during the Bonifacio Day Longest Awards held at the new Batangas City Convention Center (BCCC). SM City Batangas was also cited for its full compliance to the implementation of the Zero Plastic ordinance of Batangas City. Mayor Vilma B. Dimacuta said that SM played an important role in the beautification, greening and overall environment upliftment of Batangas City. The Bonifacio Day Longest Awards is aimed to honor barangays, business establishments, and individuals who have contributed to the overall improvement of Batangas City. In photo is SMCity Batangas Mall manager Lorenzo G. Calingasan, receiving the award from Mayor Vilma B. Dimacuta and SMG Secretary Jesus Robredo.

RUSTY LOPEZ HOLDS BLOOD-LETTING PROGRAM

IT ARDS today a celebration of life as Rusty Lopez, makers of innovative and high quality shoes market this for the day of their president and CEO, J. Rio Lopez, through a blood-letting event dubbed as "Save Life, Donate Blood." The activity was held at the LSI, Corporate Center in Marikina recently. Lopez was joined by other company executives and more than 120 employees from the Lopez Group of Companies, private executive Rusty Lopez Corporation, Puma, Bags Unlimited, Wallaroo, Marikina and Anatolia in the activity held in cooperation with The Philippine Red Cross West Chapter-Marikina City Branch.

GMA AND HABITAT: PARTNERS IN BUILDING COMMUNITIES

KAPUSO at its corporate social responsibility, GMA Network signed a memorandum of agreement with Habitat for Humanity Philippines to support the latter's "I Build" campaign which provides simple, decent and affordable shelter to the underserved Filipinos. Photo shows GMA chair and CEO Felipe L. Gozon (second from left) shaking hands with Habitat for Humanity CEO and managing director Charlie Z. Ayoso (second from right). Also in photo are, from left, GMA SVP for Corporate Affairs Teresita L. Perez and Habitat for Humanity Marketing and Communications director Antoni Dar-Ito Patagonia.

Raymundo's launches 2012 line: cold-casted bronze sculptures

THE LEADING Philippine brand and manufacturer of trophies, plaques, medals and sculptures, as well as corporate giveaways, has launched its first-to-the market cold-casted bronze sculptures.

Ed Raymundo

Instead of using the typical design by using Filipino expert artisans, the brand's bronze is also reasonably priced in comparison with other similar products on the market. The pieces utilizes cold-casting or bonded casting, these provides the unique appearance and feel of a bar foundry piece, or other materials, for the less to cost and time.

And exclusive designs come with a guaranteed factory prices, and prides itself for its pioneering efforts in the leading supplier of custom-made awards in the Philippines market. Per current leads, clients are able to commemorate the awards worth, with sculptures that conforms to their corporate climate' event's theme and budget. And having its own factory, it is likewise able to offer its services in factory prices.

Gerald Raymundo, the man at the helm of the successful enterprise – Raymundo's Awards Manufacturing Corporation, that dates back a decade ago, has set his vision towards the new growing demand for his classical designs on the global stage, with Asia and the Pacific region, as well as the Canadian and European market on forerunner sights. "Our line of sculptures are offered at prices which are definitely lower to price than our nearest competitors, due to the fact that all our processes are done in-house," he happily emphasized. He also revealed that his group has designs that combines various materials such as stainless steel, brass, wood, pulleys/rope and acrylic.

"We have gone to great lengths to provide our clients with a wider array of design options," he added.

Currently in the process of infusing new machines to improve its production process, Raymundo's showcases its award-winning designs at the 1/G Floor, 8 Building of SM Megamall. Also considered the country's leading brand and manufacturer of golf trophies, plaques and pabrayuntad cups, some internationally-acclaimed works of art may also be viewed through its new website: www.awardsph.com or call its customer service office at 654-5796/0920-9233573 /709-7163.

Manang's Chicken, the new hangout of fried chicken lovers

THERE'S a new double-deep fried chicken that's creating a buzz – Manang's Chicken. More and more foodies are smitten each time they take a bite of Manang's double deep fried soy garlic chicken and experience that yummy yeah and yuh! of sweetness and spiciness, crispiness and juiciness. It's definitely a different kind of fried chicken, unique from all those available in the market today. The distinction of Manang's Chicken lies in its method of cooking and its secret sauce. Manang's Chicken is double deep fried using high-grade, cholesterol-free oil to remove excess grease and make it extra crunchy but firm and succulent inside. It's glazed with a lip-smacking soy garlic sauce that's sweet, spicy and tangy. Then it's topped off with roasted sesame seeds for added crunch and flavor. Overall, dinner got a hearty cocktail of tastes and tastes so that's truly pleasing to the palate. Manang's Chicken was an instant hit when it debuted in the Mercado Central de Binondo food market last weekend at Bonifacio Global City. And and cohorts downs Bonifacio its branches in Bridges, Kalayaan, 3rd Avenue, SM Megamall, Glorietta, and SM North Edsa as well as its kiosks in Mercato, Legaspi Sunday Market and Salcedo/Makiti in Makong. Manang's Chicken is redefining fried chicken as most people know it and is currently the new hangout of fried chicken lovers. Visit Manang's Chicken to experience the double-deep fried soy garlic chicken fanfare we're raving about. Manang's Chicken also delivers. Orders, call 580-8668; in Kalayaan, call 821-0901 and in 3rd Avenue, 254-8841. For more info, check out www.manangschicken.com.

NOTICE

A BUSINESS ENTITIES AND PERSONS ARE HEREBY CAUTIONED NOT TO ENGAGE IN ANY TRANSACTION WITH

This Registration Does Not Constitute, In Any Manner Whatsoever, A Finding By The Commission As To The Merits Of The Securities Offered Or The Adequacy Of The Information Contained In The Registration Statement. Any Representation To The Contrary Is Unauthorized And Unlawful.

By: _____
Director

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
FOR LAS PIÑAS OFFICE

PROJECT COORDINATOR

ENGINEERING / ARCHITECTURE GRADUATE, COMPUTER LITERATE, SELF MOTIVATED WITH LEADERSHIP/MANAGERIAL SKILLS AND MINIMUM 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN B.I.L.L. PACS, 2-3 YEARS FULL TIME OR WITHOUT CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE AS PROJECT COORDINATOR PREFERRED

SEND RESUME W/ WITH PHOTO TO:
jobs@bil.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
FOR LAS PIÑAS OFFICE

SALES ENGINEER

ENGINEERING / ARCHITECTURE GRADUATE, COMPUTER LITERATE, SELF MOTIVATED WITH LIGHT SUPERVISION, EXCELLENT WRITTEN & VERBAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS, MALE OR FEMALE, 21-30 YEARS OLD, WITH OR WITHOUT EXPERIENCE, EXPERIENCE IN SALES OR ENGINEERING APPLIANCES, MUST HAVE OWN CAR, DRIVER'S LICENSE, GOOD SALARY, COMMISSION & CAR LOAN FOR RIGHT PARTY.

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(Public Estates Authority)
7/F Legaspi Towers 300, Bldg., 300 Roxas cor. Roxas St.,
Legaspi Village, 1229 City of Makati
Tel. Nos. (02) 813-4471 to 75; (02) 813-1447 to 48; Facsimile No. (02) 816-2662
Website: www.pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT, PRE-QUALIFY AND BID FOR THE DISPOSITION OF PRA PROPERTIES

The PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY) invites interested parties to pre-qualify and bid for the sale of the following properties on an "as-is, where-is" basis:

I. PROPERTIES FOR DISPOSITION

Properties / Location	Area (m²)	Mode of Disposition	Proposed Land Use
Superblock 9	120714, Brg Ugong, Pasig City	50,000	Sale, preferably asset-sale	mixed-use development
Property 1	BRGY/CS Reclamation, Bacoor City	10,000	Sale, preferably asset-sale	industrial/ commercial
Property 2	Bacoor City	24,031		

II. QUALIFYING PROPERTY OWNERSHIPS

- Any Filipino citizen of legal age; and
- Any government-owned or controlled corporation, government financial institution or any public corporation which has complied with the requirements established by PRA for the bidding.

Private corporations are not eligible to bid. However directors, officers and stockholders of private corporations can acquire residential alienable lands of the public domain not to exceed twelve (12) hectares per individual through public bidding, provided, they are Filipino citizens.

III. SCHEDULES

	Activities	Superblock 9	Bacoor
a	Issuance of ITOBs and Bid Documents	April 12 to May 28, 2013 From 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.	April 12 to May 28, 2013 From 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
b	Non-Refundable Fee	P10,000.00	P10,000.00
c	Pre-Bid Conference	April 26, 2013 at 2:00 P.M. PRA Conference Room	May 3, 2013 at 2:00 P.M. The Manila Pavilion Hotel Velo, Bacoor City
d	Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents and Bid Documents	May 28, 2013 at 1:30 P.M. PRA Lobby, Makati City	May 31, 2013 at 1:30 P.M. The Manila Pavilion Hotel Velo, Bacoor City
e	Opening of Bids	May 28, 2013 at 2:00 P.M. PRA Conference Room	May 31, 2013 at 2:00 P.M. The Manila Pavilion Hotel Velo, Bacoor City

a. Interested qualified parties may secure the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents from the Marketing Department at the address stated below upon payment of the respective non-refundable fee in Cash or Manager's / Cashier's check payable to Philippine Reclamation Authority and submission of an order of request (letter) to participate in the bidding for one, two or all of the properties identified for disposition. The P10,000 amount are addressed and delivered to:

MANUEL G. FRANCISCO, JR.
Chairman
PRA Real Estate Sale and Awards Committee (PRESAC)
Philippine Reclamation Authority
7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 300
Roxas de Roxas, Makati City

b. The PRESAC shall hold a Pre-Bid Conference which shall be open only to the interested parties who purchased the bid documents.

c. The respective pre-qualification documents and bids accomplished not concurrently presented to the Terms of Reference discussion submitted/accepted in the Bid Box located at the respective venues.

d. The opening of bids to be conducted by the PRESAC, shall immediately follow at 2:00 P.M. of the same day after the closing/posting of the Bid Box.

e. PRA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities found therein, to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to its interest, to declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract to any bidder if:

a. Prima facie evidence of collusion between PRA officials/employees or the PRESAC and any of the bidders or between or among the bidders themselves or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict or nullify or suppress competition;

b. The PRESAC is found to have failed in following the prescribed bidding procedures; and

c. For any justifiable and reasonable ground, the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government.

Interested parties may obtain further information on the properties for sale at www.pea.gov.ph or may contact Ms. Arlene T. Bonto or Mr. Joseph T. Anthony of the Marketing Department at Telephone Number (632) 813-4471 local 243, 463 or 108.

(Sgd.) MANUEL G. FRANCISCO, JR.
Chairman, PRESAC

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE NCR Building, 827 Intramuros St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National / Citizenship	Position
PLATINUM GROUP METALS CORPORATION 18F Yuchengco Business Center, 551 Paseo de Roxas cor. Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ibrahim Lin Chinese	Technical Assistant
UNITED PULP & PAPER CO., INC. 6/F Port Legend Towers, 3rd Ave cor. 31st St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Jinsoh Kenneth Ha Thai	Vice President - Marketing
PAL INTERNATIONAL AGENCY INC. 12/F Ramon Magsaysay Center 1680 Roces Blvd., Manila, Manila	Jinbo Sun Chinese	Consultant
WEALTH EXPRESS SERVICES LTD. -MAKATI BRANCH 21/F Philamlife Court, 6735 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ligang Wang Singaporean	Consultant
HATAKEN PHILIPPINES TRADING COMPANY INC. Rm. 401-407 Mezzanine Bldg., 5679/5681A Lin. East Ave., Quezon City	Kashif Ahmed Pakistani	Team Member
CHINA TEMPLATE EXPORT & INSPECTION GROUP PHILIPPINES INC. Unit 1-A Alabang Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd., San Juan City	Tonghai Wang Chinese	General Manager
SUNSTONE BUSINESS GROUP CORPORATION 7 Ramon St. North Green Hills, San Juan City	Muhammad Pakistani	Technical Staff
ZTE CORP TRADING CORP. Unit Penthouse Tower, Subang de Romualdez, Romualdez St., Bonifacio Manila	Chuqin Zhang Chinese	Marketing Manager
CHEN GARDEN RESTAURANT & BANQUETS INC. Commando St., Greenhills, San Juan City	Han Li Chinese	Manager
KOREAN SCHOOL FOUNDATION PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Boulevard Road, Muntinlupa Hill Town Center, Post Bonifacio, Taguig City	Ji Hyun Lee Korean	Korean Language Consultant
KOREAN SCHOOL FOUNDATION PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Boulevard Road, Muntinlupa Hill Town Center, Post Bonifacio, Taguig City	Jinsuk Kim Korean	Korean Language Consultant
SUSAN GAMES, INC. - PHILIPPINES 6/F Accis Bldg., 5495-5500 Ayala Ave. cor. Rockwell Drive, Makati City	Wishner Francis Bean Australian	Senior Unit Engineer
ASIA SWEET TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 1501, 15/F Philippine Corporate Center, 107 Alberto Arnaiz Ave. cor. 136 Valero, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Muzaffar Iftikhar Jasmine	Account Manager
PHILIP MORRIS PHILIPPINES MANUFACTURING INC. 2/F Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Mariam Nadeem Mirajkar	Manager, Product Management
AGRINEX RESOURCES CORP. Unit 1008 Fedcenter Financial Tower, 23rd St. cor. 7th Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Vladimir Ma. Rueller	Plant Commissioner
AGRINEX RESOURCES CORP. Unit 1008 Fedcenter Financial Tower, 23rd St. cor. 7th Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Vladimir Hernandez Ponce	Logistics Officer
ORACLE [PHILIPPINES] CORPORATION 10/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Vikram Ramakanth Indian	Project Leader
ORACLE [PHILIPPINES] CORPORATION 10/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Kapavarapu Venkatesh Indian	Project Manager
ORACLE [PHILIPPINES] CORPORATION 10/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Gopinadhalliyaya Kavitha Indian	Functional Consultant
ORACLE [PHILIPPINES] CORPORATION 10/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Venugopala Hanchinahalpya Indian	Technical Consultant
MENTERGY INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 20/F Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Chen Ke Chinese	Customer Service Representative
MENTERGY INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 20/F Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Mingyu Li Chinese	Customer Service Representative
MENTERGY INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 20/F Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Fujian Su Chinese	Customer Service Representative
MENTERGY INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 20/F Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Qian Lou Chinese	Accounting Staff (Mandarin Speaking)
MENTERGY INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 20/F Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Liguo Sun Chinese	Customer Service Representative

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.)
ATTY. ALAN N. MACASAET, CESO III
Regional Director

ANNOUNCEMENT

All employers with existing TUPAD CO visiting concerns are welcome to participate in the 2013 Labor Day Job Fair Celebration that to be held on 01 May 2013 at the Bonifacio World Trade Center, Pasay City.

For confirmation or attendance and further inquiries, kindly get in touch with Ms. Reyna Mateo (632-5588272) or Mr. Dennis Tuba (632-5588253) or you may contact them at the following telephone numbers: 359-5601 and 359-5604 (Direct lines) and 403-8101/8000 (Hotline).

(PIA) – April 2, 2013

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P.O. Box 213, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City 1101 Philippines
Telephone Nos.: (632) 929-6010 to 19 Fax No.: (632) 920-1981

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders to participate in the following projects:

Name of Project	(1) Procurement of PNRI Security and General Maintenance Services	(2) Procurement of PNRI contractor Maintenance Services
Location	Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City	
Approved Budget for the Contract	Php 2,316,410.00	Php 1,020,017.28
Bidding Documents Fee	1,000 (non-refundable)	1,000 (non-refundable)
Contract Duration	one - December 2013	one - December 2013
Bidding Activities:		
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Apr. 15 - May 03, 2013 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm) (May 03, 2013 - 12:00 pm)	Apr. 15 - May 03, 2013 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm) (May 03, 2013 - 12:00 pm)
2. Pre-bid conference	April 24, 2013 / 10:00 am	April 24, 2013 / 10:00 am
3. Opening of Bids	May 03, 2013 / 10:00 am	May 03, 2013 / 10:00 am

Bidding documents can be obtained from the BAC Secretariat after payment of non-refundable amount of the indicated bidding documents fee (P 1,000.00) for Project No. 1 and one thousand (P 1,000.00) for Project No. 2 at the PNRI Cash Section (NAA).

The eligibility requirements as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

All particulars stated in the Eligibility Statement and Screening Bid Security Performance Security and Mode of Procurement as stipulated in Rule XIII of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR) of R.A. 9184.

The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute may reserve the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein, or accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid will be most responsive to the needs, requirements and capabilities of the PNRI after due qualification.

The Bids and Awards Committee shall conduct random post-qualification on the bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) and subsequent bidders in the event that the LCB fails the post-qualification.

Non-payment of liquidated damages may cause the BAC blacklisted after payment of non-refundable amount of the indicated bidding documents fee (P 1,000.00) for Project No. 1 and one thousand (P 1,000.00) for Project No. 2 at the PNRI Cash Section (NAA).

For further clarification, inquiries as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ALEXANDER P. MEDINA
Chief, PNRI and Vice Chairperson
Bids & Awards Committee

SUSSON I SLOTERIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Susson Village, Tarlac
Telefax: (045) 419-0139 / Fax: (045) 923-1112

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Susson I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUSELCO, Inc.) invites qualified Filipino Contractors to apply for Eligibility and Bid for the following projects:

LOT 1	Concrete Pole Maintenance and Line Extension	ABC Php 2,115,000.00 (APPROX.)
LOT 2	Concrete Pole Maintenance and Line Extension	ABC Php 1,695,000.00 (APPROX.)
LOT 3a	Conversion of Single Phase to 3 Phase Line	ABC Php 1,430,000.00 (APPROX.)
LOT 3b	Conversion of Single Phase to 3 Phase Line	ABC Php 1,320,000.00 (APPROX.)
LOT 4	Service Drop Wire Re-Connection	ABC Php 1,320,000.00 (APPROX.)
LOT 5	Meters for Replacement and New Connections	ABC Php 1,320,000.00 (APPROX.)

Interested Bidders may purchase bidding documents from April 15-25, 2013 (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and with 10:00 a.m. Break) at the Cashier's Office of the Treasurer's Department, Susson I Electric Cooperative, Inc. Bids shall be submitted on or before the 25th day of April 2013 at 10:00 a.m. Bidders are required to submit a bid bond in the form of Cashier's or Manager's Check or Bank Guarantee in the amount of 2% of the ABC

In memory of our beloved mother

FELISA TIRONA FRANCISCO

who joined her Heavenly Father and her husband Jessica Ricardo Adhesone Francisco on April 11, 2012 at the age of 83.

Her bereaved children, in-laws and grandchildren:

RAY & CORETTE TANJUAQUIO
TRIKA, MIGUEL & KAITH

MARICRIS
PAOLO, MARKI & BETH

CORA & BOBIT OLANDAY
BOBBY & BEA

ENTENG
DENAN

LITO & EUNA IMPERIAL
MONIQUE, DENISE, LUIS

IRBAY & REGGIE FRANCISCO
RAUL, BELENE, ROXANNE & RUSTIN

MALOU

HANNE & LEAH MAGBIRO
DIEGO, SOFIA & ANNIKA

Sisters

DOLLY FENIX & CHARRY PARPAN

Sisters-in-law, relatives and friends request the prayers readers in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan Road corner Pascal St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Daily Mass at 8:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 15, 2012 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 12:30 p.m. Mass at the Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish Church.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
– John 14:6

Hon. Philip R. Rodriguez

April 14, 1954 – April 10, 2012

Peacefully joined our Creator on April 10, 2012 at the age of 57.

A loving husband to his wife **Thelma Z. Rodriguez**; responsible father to his daughter **Ma. Marequerra Z. Rodriguez**.

His remains lie in state at the Sarapulec Chapel, La Funeraria Paz Sucat inside Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

His remains will be transferred to **Cabuyao Municipal Hall, Cabuyao, Laguna** for necrological services on Friday, April 13 will leave at 6:00 a.m. and will return to La Funeraria Paz-Sucat at 5:00 p.m.

Cremation will take place on Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park Crematory, Sucat, Parañaque City.

His ashes will stay in a place he loves, in the sea and its endless beauty.

EDUARDO A. DE LEON

Region V Director,
Philippine Information Agency

Died in the grace of our Lord on April 7, 2012, at the age of 63. He is survived by his wife Perla, daughter Sherielle, granddaughter Bianca and siblings Erlinda Maliaconan, Francisco Jr., Engr. Manuel, Noel, Dr. Danilo and Renato.

His remains will be available for viewing from April 11 to 15 at Oro Funeral Homes, Legaspi City.

CLASSIFIEDS

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
With a Mandate, Public Utility Franchise to Serve

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) a Public Service entity duly organized under Board Resolution No. [illegible] and duly granted under RA [illegible] authority to operate and maintain an electric power distribution utility in the [illegible] and is now by the following nominees, [illegible] positions indicated, to wit:

No.	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	10	units	[illegible]
			[illegible]
			[illegible]